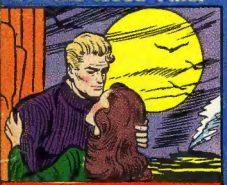
52 PAGES OF TRUE LOVE

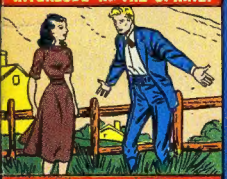
LOVE Adventures

JUNE
No. 5
10¢

AMONG THE MANY *LOVE Adventures* IN THIS ISSUE ARE:



"INTERLUDE IN THE SPRING!"



"THE TALL STRANGER!"

"IT'S TRAGIC TO BE ONE ALONE!"

AND MANY MORE *LOVE Adventures*

ONCE IN EVERY LIFETIME A GIRL MUST MAKE THE CHOICE ARLENE BARBER MADE... BUT WOULD YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE SAME THING? DON'T MISS THE REAL STORY BEHIND "THE SACRIFICE OF ARLENE BARBER!"

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT ARLENE BARBER! EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOWS SHE'S CARRYING A TORCH FOR PAUL STANTON... EXCEPT STANTON HIMSELF!

LOOK, IT'S ARLENE! I WONDER IF SHE STILL...? NO, I GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE WITH HER NOW!

OF COURSE NOT, PAUL! GET SMART... SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN YOU! YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE RID OF HER!

FUN FOR ALL!

DER TODAY!

- 7½" HIGH!
- HOLDS PENNIES, NICKELS, DIMES!
- DOUBLE LOCK AND KEY!

Exciting saving bank serves peanuts while you save pennies, nickels, dimes! Comes with top hat, dashing manicle, a ½ pound vacuum can of delicious roasted peanuts, double lock and key. Drop in a coin and flip back the ear —out pops a generous amount of peanuts. Made of sturdy, durable plastic, MR. PEANUT VENDER-BANK is ideal to start the kiddies saving (holds upwards of $20 in coins.) Wonderful for parties, entertaining, family fun. Easy to refill. SEND NO MONEY. (C.O.D. you pay postage. Remit with order, we pay postage.)

To thrill the heart of every little mother — this sensational 22 piece REAL-A-DOLLY! Cuddly rubber doll drinks, eats, wets her diaper ... comes with complete feeding equipment — 11 sturdy pieces including sterilizer rack, nipple jar and kettle, formula measuring cup, funnel and spoon, and six bottles and nipples ready to use! Made of soft, life-like WONDERSKIN, you can bathe her, move her arms and legs. SEND NO MONEY (C. O. D. you pay postage. Remit with order, we pay postage.)

- SHE'S OVER 18 INCHES TALL!
- LIFELIKE RUBBER WONDERSKIN!
- SHE CRIES — SHE COOS!
- REMOVABLE LAYETTE!

Amazingly lifelike nu-born doll to melt every "little mother's" heart. Put her, tuck her, cuddle her—she coos—she cries. Hours and hours of play thrills. Over 18 inches high, with almost human washable arms, legs, and head of rubber WONDERSKIN. Baby-soft pink skin, bright-blue eyes — closest thing to actual infant. Easily removable nightie and diaper combination for "quick changes." Adorably wrapped in wooly bunting with a ribbon tie for showing off in the "carriage parade." SEND NO MONEY. (C.O.D. you pay postage, —Remit with order, we pay postage.)

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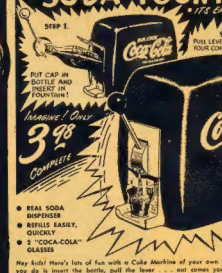
WITH PAREKA - WITH MELTED
ONLY MUSIC THAT SOUND PLAYED EASY!
LOOKS LIKE A REAL HIGH PRICED CONCERTINA
JUST IMAGINE ONLY
3.49
COMPLETE
BIG MUSIC TO READ
COMES COMPLETE WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND FREE SONG BOOK!

- SENSATIONALLY NEW PLASTIC BELLOWS!
- BIG SIZE, BIG TONE, BIG VOLUME!
- PLAYS FULL SCALES AND CHORDS!
- ADJUSTABLE HAND-STRAPS!

It's simple to play, great fun to use — sensational COWBOY CONCERTINA is just what your favorite little cowboy (or cowgirl) is yearning for! This life-sized concertina is so easy to handle, you'll be swinging out your favorite tunes almost immediately. Sturdily made of all-plastic (including lasting plastic bellows), it has 10 buttons operating 20 carefully-tuned reeds — plays full scales and chords with ease. Over 7 inches in diameter, it extends to a big 13 inches. COWBOY CONCERTINA has adjustable hand-straps, comes complete with instructions and song book included. SEND NO MONEY. (C.O.D. you pay postage. Remit with order, we pay postage.)



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- 2 "COCA-COLA" GLASSES

Hey Kids! Here's lots of fun with a Coke Machine of your own that really works! All you do is insert the bottle, pull the lever ... out comes your Coke into a small "Coca-Cola" glass. (It also holds any other kind of drink in a similar size bottle). Comes complete with 2 glasses. Made of bright red durable plastic, 6x9x10 in. ... looks real, is real fun for the whole family. SEND NO MONEY. (C.O.D. you pay postage. Remit with order, we pay postage.)

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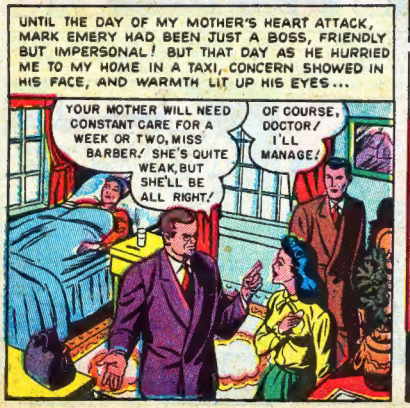
the sacrifice of ARLENE BARBER

ARLENE! PAUL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO?
OH, MARK! I'M SO SORRY... SO TERRIBLY SORRY YOU HAD TO FIND OUT THIS WAY!
LISTEN, MARK... WE LOVE EACH OTHER... AND NOTHING'S GOING TO KEEP US APART!
A TRUE-LIFE LOVE ADVENTURE!


UNTIL THE DAY OF MY MOTHER'S HEART ATTACK, MARK EMERY HAD BEEN JUST A BOSS, FRIENDLY BUT IMPERSONAL! BUT THAT DAY AS HE HURRIED ME TO MY HOME IN A TAXI, CONCERN SHOWED IN HIS FACE, AND WARMTH LIT UP HIS EYES...
YOUR MOTHER WILL NEED CONSTANT CARE FOR A WEEK OR TWO, MISS BARBER! SHE'S QUITE WEAK, BUT SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
OF COURSE, DOCTOR! I'LL MANAGE!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THE WORK AT THE OFFICE, ARLENE! TAKE AN UNLIMITED LEAVE OF ABSENCE, WITH PAY...
NO, MR. EMERY, I COULDN'T DO THAT! BUT I'LL TRY TO KEEP UP WITH MY WORK HERE AT HOME WHILE I CARE FOR MOTHER!

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

MARK BROUGHT MY THINGS FROM THE OFFICE, AND AS THE DAYS PASSED, HE STARTED SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME WITH ME HIMSELF, UNDER PRETENSE OF KEEPING UP WITH THE WORK. MOTHER'S CONDITION IMPROVED STEADILY. ONE EVENING, AFTER AN HOUR OF TAKING DICTATION...

I'M FEELING FINE. WHY DON'T YOU TWO GET OUT IN THE AIR? ARLENE'S BEEN COOPED UP FOR TOO LONG ON MY ACCOUNT.

THAT WOULD BE FINE -- IF YOU'RE SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT ALONE, MRS. BARBER?

ALL RIGHT, MOTHER! JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

WE DROVE ALONG THE LAKE ROAD...IT WAS A LOVELY MOONLIT EVENING AND I FELT, AS A TANGIBLE THING, THE ATTRACTION THAT WAS DRAWING ME TO MARK. I TRIED TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION LIGHT, BUT THE LOVE IN MARK'S EYES WAS UNMISTAKABLE...

THESE WEEKS MUST HAVE BEEN AWFULLY DULL FOR YOU, MARK. YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND...

ARLENE...HOW COULD I BE ANYTHING BUT KIND TO YOU? DON'T YOU KNOW I-- I *LOVE* YOU, ARLENE!

WHEN I GOT HOME I TOLD MOTHER THE IMPORTANT NEWS... BUT I KEPT MY EYES TURNED AWAY FROM HERS, SO SHE WOULDN'T SEE THE UNCERTAINTY THERE. FOR, THE MOMENT I HAD GIVEN MARK MY ANSWER, I HAD REALIZED...IT WAS ADMIRATION I FELT FOR HIM, AND GRATITUDE, NOT LOVE.

MOTHER, TONIGHT MARK ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM. I SAID YES.

OH, I'M SO GLAD! HE'S SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN-- AND I KNEW HE LOVED YOU.

I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO NAME THE DATE OF OUR WEDDING... SO I PUT MARK OFF... AND LIFE SETTLED DOWN TO THE PATTERN OF OUR ENGAGEMENT... PLEASANT EVENINGS OF WHAT EVER I WANTED TO DO...

I KNOW YOU DON'T BOWL, MARK...BUT I'M NO EXPERT, SO YOU WON'T BE DISGRACED.

I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE.

IT HAD BEEN JUST ONE OF OUR UNEXCITING EVENINGS TOGETHER, THAT FIRST TIME WE'D ENTERED THE BOWLING ALLEY. BUT SUDDENLY, FOR ME, THE VERY AIR WAS CHARGED WITH EXCITEMENT... FOR MY GAZE WAS DRAWN IRRESISTIBLY TO THE YOUNG MAN IN THE NEXT ALLEY. WHEN OUR EYES MET, I FELT SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW TO ME. HORRIFIED, I REALIZED THAT I HAD NEVER FELT THIS WAY WHEN MARK LOOKED AT ME.

OH, THERE'S PAUL STANTON. I CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH HIS EYE, THOUGH. I BELIEVE HE'S LOOKING AT *YOU*, ARLENE! SHALL I ASK HIM TO JOIN US IN A GAME?

NO...NO, MARK. I'M TIRED OF BOWLING. LET'S GO HOME.

SOME INSTINCT HAD WARNED ME--THERE WAS DANGER THERE--DANGER TO MARK AND ME.

REALLY, MARK, I'M TIRED. LET'S GO.

ANYTHING YOU SAY, DEAR.

I ESCAPED MEETING MARK'S FRIEND THAT NIGHT... BUT FOR WEEKS AFTER MY HEART QUESTIONED MY HASTY DECISION, I COULD NOT GET HIM OUT OF MY MIND... SO I ASKED MARK TO TAKE ME BOWLING AGAIN...

YOUR MIND DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON THE GAME, ARLENE./

I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE--ISN'T THAT YOUR FRIEND, PAUL STANTON, OVER THERE?

YES, IT IS--WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ME INVITE HIM TO BOWL WITH US?

YES...WHY DON'T YOU, MARK?

AND WE WERE FACE TO FACE./ IN SPITE OF MY DREADING THIS DEVELOPMENT, I HAD WILLED IT TO HAPPEN./

ARLENE, THIS IS PAUL STANTON./

HELLO, ARLENE./

HOW DO YOU DO?

WITH HIS EYES ON ME, I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON THE BOWLING./ I HAD NEVER FELT SUCH AN ATTRACTION, AND I WAS SURE HE FELT IT TOO./

SAY, PAUL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE AFFECTED ARLENE'S GAME./ SHE WAS DOING MUCH BETTER BEFORE YOU JOINED US./

WELL, SHE MAY WIN YET./

THE TIME FLEW AND I DREADED THE INEVITABLE MOMENT WHEN MARK WOULD SAY THOSE FAMILIAR WORDS, "WE HAVE A LONG, HARD DAY AHEAD TOMORROW--TIME TO GO HOME./" HE DID SAY THEM BUT HIS NEXT REMARK SURPRISED ME./

WELL, I'VE A LONG, HARD DAY AHEAD TOMORROW--TIME TO GO HOME./ BUT I KNOW YOU'RE BOTH ENJOYING THE GAME./ SO WHY DON'T YOU STAY, ARLENE? I'M SURE PAUL WILL SEE YOU HOME./

WELL--

I'D BE DELIGHTED./

AND SUDDENLY, SURPRISINGLY, MARK WAS GONE--AND PAUL AND I WERE ALONE./ WE BOWLED A FEW GAMES AND THEN...

I--DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE BOWLING, DO YOU, ARLENE? THE PARK'S NEARBY--WOULD YOU LIKE SOME FRESH AIR?

ALL RIGHT, FOR A FEW MINUTES... THEN I MUST GET HOME./

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE TEMPTED FATE THIS WAY--BUT I SIMPLY COULDN'T HELP MYSELF. STROLLING IN THE DAPPLED SHADOWS OF THE PARK, I WAS COMPLETELY HAPPY WITH PAUL--AND MARK WAS FORGOTTEN.

PAUL TURNED AND SWEPT ME TO HIM. INVOLUNTARILY, I RETURNED HIS KISS, AND THE SWEETNESS OF THE MOMENT SURPASSED ANYTHING I'D EVER KNOWN.

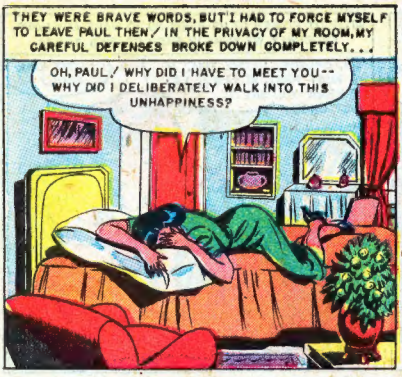
DARLING, THIS WAS MEANT TO HAPPEN. AND I KNEW, WEEKS AGO, THAT IT *MUST* HAPPEN. I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER, BUT I SAW YOU ONE NIGHT...

YES... AT THE BOWLING ALLEY. I SAW YOU, TOO. AND I KNEW THEN...

BUT I MUST. I'M ENGAGED TO MARK--AND I OWE HIM SO MUCH. HE'S THE KINDEST, MOST CONSIDERATE MAN--AND HE LOVES ME. I *CAN'T* HURT HIM--I *MUSTN'T*.

WOULD YOU GIVE THIS UP OUT OF A FEELING OF KINDNESS? NO MAN WANTS *GRATITUDE*, ARLENE--IT ISN'T ENOUGH. YOU'D ONLY MAKE HIM UNHAPPY IN THE END.

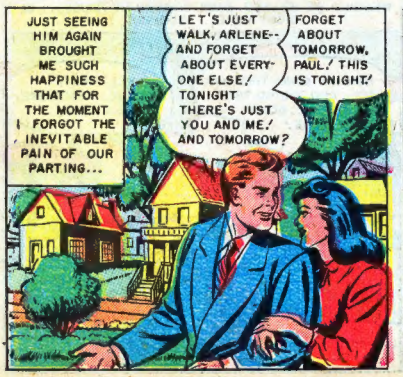
NO... I'LL MAKE HIM HAPPY--I WILL. I CAN'T GO BACK ON AN OBLIGATION, PAUL. PARTICULARLY *THIS* ONE.


THEY WERE BRAVE WORDS, BUT I HAD TO FORCE MYSELF TO LEAVE PAUL THEN / IN THE PRIVACY OF MY ROOM, MY CAREFUL DEFENSES BROKE DOWN COMPLETELY...
OH, PAUL / WHY DID I HAVE TO MEET YOU-- WHY DID I DELIBERATELY WALK INTO THIS UNHAPPINESS?

THE MORE I TRIED TO FORGET PAUL, THE MORE I THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE!
HEY, LADY! *WATCH OUT!*
OH, I BEG YOUR PARDON! I-- HAD SOMETHING ON MY MIND!

THE WORST TIME OF ALL WAS WHEN I WAS WITH MARK, TRYING TO LISTEN TO HIM AND ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS AND RETURN HIS KISSES... WHEN ALL THE WHILE I WAS SEEING PAUL'S FACE... HEARING PAUL'S VOICE, AND FEELING THE TOUCH OF PAUL'S LIPS ON MINE! FINALLY...

PAUL? THIS IS ARLENE!... YOU MEAN YOU *EXPECTED* THIS CALL? WELL, I DON'T SEE... LISTEN, PAUL, I *MUST* SEE YOU! JUST ONCE-- TO SAY GOOD-BYE! OH, YOU EXPECTED THAT, TOO? WELL, IT REALLY *WILL* BE GOOD-BYE-- DON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKE ABOUT *THAT!*


JUST SEEING HIM AGAIN BROUGHT ME SUCH HAPPINESS THAT FOR THE MOMENT I FORGOT THE INEVITABLE PAIN OF OUR PARTING...
LET'S JUST WALK, ARLENE-- AND FORGET ABOUT EVERY-ONE ELSE! TONIGHT THERE'S JUST YOU AND ME! AND TOMORROW?
FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW, PAUL! THIS IS TONIGHT!

ARLENE, CAN'T YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND--CAN'T YOU TELL MARK HOW WE FEEL? I GUESS IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR ME TO TRY TO INFLUENCE YOU--HE IS A FRIEND OF MINE./ BUT...
NO, PAUL, DON'T./ YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS HARDER BY TALKING./
WITHOUT EITHER OF US SEEMING TO MAKE ANY MOVE, SUDDENLY WE WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS./
OH, ARLENE, I LOVE YOU./ IF WE MUST PART, AT LEAST LET ME HEAR YOU SAY IT, JUST ONCE./
I LOVE YOU, PAUL./
BUT HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO FIND LOVE, THE ONLY LOVE FOR ME, AND THEN GIVE IT UP?
NOW WE MUST GO, PAUL, AND NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN./
I'M SORRY--I CAN SEE YOUR MIND IS MADE UP./ HERE, DARLING, NO TEARS./
WEARILY WE WALKED BACK TOWARD MY HOUSE... IN SIGHT OF IT, I STOPPED...
NOW I'M GOING THIS WAY, PAUL, AND YOU GO THAT WAY./ AND... DON'T LOOK BACK./
ALL RIGHT, ARLENE... GOOD-BYE, MY DARLING./

I FORCED MY FEET TO TAKE THOSE STEPS AWAY FROM PAUL...I MEANT TO KEEP GOING, ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING IN ME CRIED OUT AGAINST IT./ BEHIND ME I HEARD PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS RECEDE...AND THEN SUDDENLY THEY STOPPED./

GOOD-BYE, PAUL... *NO!* I CAN'T DO IT!

I WHIRLED--PAUL WAS RUNNING TOWARD ME--AND IN AN INSTANT I WAS IN HIS ARMS./ THERE WAS NO REFUSING THE MAGNETIC PULL BETWEEN US--IT WAS TOO STRONG./ CLINGING TO PAUL, I DIDN'T HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS THAT CAME AROUND A CORNER...

ARLENE, I *COULDN'T* LEAVE YOU/ IT'S ASKING TOO MUCH/

I KNOW/ HOLD ME, DARLING!/

ARLENE!

I'M SORRY THIS HAD TO HAPPEN, MARK./ I WAS SAYING GOOD-BYE TO PAUL FOREVER, BUT--OH, I'M SO CONFUSED./ I'VE *TRIED* NOT TO LOVE HIM, MARK--ABOVE ALL, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE UNHAPPY...

DON'T SAY ANY MORE, ARLENE./ YOU DON'T OWE ME ANY EXPLANATIONS--PEOPLE CAN'T HELP WHOM THEY LOVE./ AND, ANYWAY--I WAS COMING TO SEE YOU TONIGHT TO BREAK OUR ENGAGEMENT./

YOU'VE BEEN SWEET, AND YOU'VE TRIED HARD, BUT YOU COULDN'T REALLY MAKE ME THINK YOU LOVED ME./ AND SO I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE FIRM'S WEST COAST BRANCH--I LEAVE IN THE MORNING./ I LOVE YOU, ARLENE, BUT--I'LL GET OVER IT, AND WITHOUT LOVE, YOU WOULDN'T MAKE ME HAPPY./

OH./ THAT'S WHAT PAUL SAID/ AND HE WAS RIGHT./ OH, MARK, I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU--*NEVER!*

THE BARRIERS WERE SWEPT ASIDE AND IN THE COOL MOONLIGHT I SEEMED TO SEE THE SUNRISE OF A NEW DAY, THE BEGINNINGS OF A LONG LIFE OF LOVE./

PAUL! PAUL!

WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO PART AGAIN, DARLING./

NEVER!/

The End

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These are excerpts from unsolicited and unpaid for testimonials . . .
(Names on request)

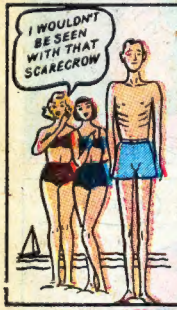
"Please send me another bottle of NUMAL. — it has helped me wonderfully. I have gained some weight and feel fine now"
Mrs. H. S., Rolla, Mo.

"— made me sleep so much better and it improved my appetite so much"
S. A. L., Sanford, Fla.

"I am so delighted with NUMAL — it has improved me very much — my friends just rave at me".
M. W., Wayeross, Ga.

"I am feeling fine and I can now eat three meals a day . . . Before I started taking NUMAL I wasn't eating well at all but now I have a good appetite".
Mrs. M. D. C., Baton Rouge, La.

"I think NUMAL is wonderful. My husband says I look better and I feel better".
Mrs. C. L., Rutland, Vt.



SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

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NOTE: The NUMAL Formula has been double-checked. 1st. By one of America's foremost research laboratories. 2nd. By our Medical Director a well-known New York practicing physician. All medical statements in this ad have also been checked by our own Medical Director for accuracy.

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If you aren't pleased with results after using one bottle of NUMAL, you get your money back. Fill in and mail coupon now.

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Send me at once a jar of NUMAL with the understanding that it must put weight on me or you'll refund my money after the first jar. I'll pay postman $2.00 plus C.O.D. charges and postage.

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NOTE: If you want to save all postal charges enclose $2 check, money order or cash. We will pay all postal charges. Same money-back guarantee.
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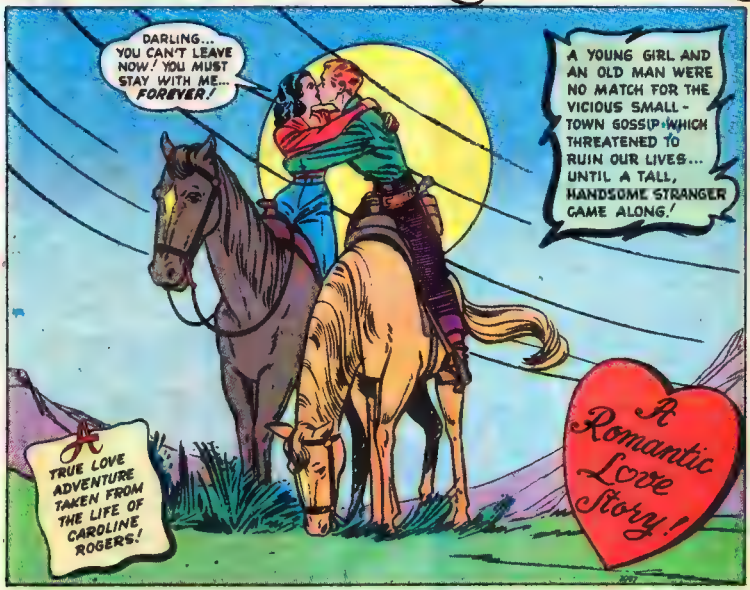
I GAVE MY LOVE TO A TALL STRANGER

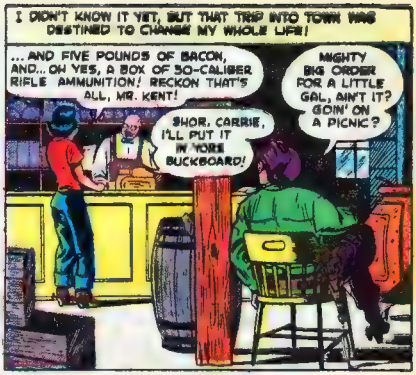

DARLING... YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! YOU MUST STAY WITH ME... FOREVER!
A YOUNG GIRL AND AN OLD MAN WERE NO MATCH FOR THE VICIOUS SMALL-TOWN GOSSIP-WHICH THREATENED TO RUIN OUR LIVES... UNTIL A TALL, HANDSOME STRANGER CAME ALONG!
A TRUE LOVE ADVENTURE TAKEN FROM THE LIFE OF CAROLINE ROGERS!
A Romantic Love Story!

SOMETIMES I STAND AT THE WINDOW AND LOOK OUT OVER THE PURPLE HILLS THAT ARE SO QUIET AND PEACEFUL NOW! BUT THEY WEREN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY...NOT WHEN BLACK DEVIL ROAMED THEIR SLOPES...NOT WHEN DAD AND I TOOK UP THE TRAIL OF THE OUTLAW STALLION!

I CAN REMEMBER DAD COMING IN FROM THE HILLS, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, SWAYING WEARILY IN THE SADDLE AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR BLACK DEVIL...
ASIDE FROM THE REWARD...THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS...THE HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION IS OFFERING FOR HIM, BLACK DEVIL IS A CHALLENGE!
YEP, I'VE BEEN CATCHIN' MUSTANGS FOR YEARS... BUT I NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF THAT STALLION!
DON'T WORRY, DAD--YOU'LL CATCH HIM YET!

TIME SPED PAST! BLACK DEVIL STILL RANGED THE HILLS WITH HIS WILD BAND ...STILL RAIDED THE CORRALS, RUNNING OFF WITH THE MARES! BUT NEW TROUBLES BESET US, AND ONE EVENING... I SAW THE TRUTH IN DAD'S EYES!
WHAT IS IT, DAD? YOU LOOK SO... SO DEFEATED!
I AM! I'M WHIPPED! BEATEN! IF WE CAN'T MEET THE NEXT PAYMENT ON THE MORTGAGE, SETH DAVIS WILL FORECLOSE! AFTER 25 YEARS I'M LOSING THE CIRCLE-R!
NO, DAD, YOU CAN'T... YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD...THIS RANCH IS YOUR WHOLE LIFE'S WORK! IT ISN'T FAIR!
FAIR OR NOT-- I OWE SETH FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS AND IF I DON'T RAISE THE MONEY BY THE END OF THE MONTH, HE'LL FORECLOSE!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN, DAD! WHAT'LL WE DO?
IF ONLY I COULD CAPTURE BLACK DEVIL... THE REWARD'S UP TO FIVE THOUSAND ON HIM NOW! CAPTURING HIM AND LASSOING A TORNADO ARE ABOUT THE SAME!
JUST THEN DAVIS STRODE INTO THE ROOM!
PARDON THE INTRUSION, ROGERS, BUT YOUR DOOR WAS OPEN SO I WALKED IN!
A MONTH OR A YEAR WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO YOU, ROGERS--YOU CAN'T PAY! BUT I'M A BUSINESSMAN... I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU!... I WON'T FORECLOSE... IN FACT I'LL CANCEL THE MORTGAGE...IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING FROM YOU!
WHAT ? WHAT DO I HAVE THAT MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU?
IT WAS WITH UNBELIEVABLE TERROR AND BLOOD-CHILLING FEAR THAT I LISTENED TO SETH DAVIS! EVEN NOW, SAFE IN THE COMFORTABLE SECURITY OF TIME, I STILL SHUDDER AT THE MEMORY OF HIS WORDS!
THERE SHE STANDS! CAROLINE! YOUR DAUGHTER! I WANT TO MARRY HER, ROGERS... AND IN RETURN FOR HER HAND, THE MORTGAGE IS GUARANTEED AND THE CIRCLE-R IS YOURS FOR ALL TIME! WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
OH, DAD!.
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO A DEAL LIKE THAT, DAVIS!
AND THAT IS...
THIS!
YOU'RE A FOOL, ROGERS! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS... YOU'LL PAY!
GET OUT! YOU'RE LUCKY, DAVIS... IN THE OLD DAYS YOU'D HAVE CAUGHT A BULLET IN YOUR SKULL! NOW GET OUT BEFORE I REALLY FIX YOU!

I WON'T TAKE THIS LYING DOWN! WE'VE FACED WORSE THAN THIS, AND WON OUT! THERE'S STILL A CHANCE, A LONG SHOT--BUT MAYBE IT'LL WORK!
YOU MEAN BLACK DEVIL? YES, LET'S TRY! I'LL GO INTO TOWN RIGHT NOW FOR SUPPLIES AND WE CAN START AFTER HIM IN THE MORNING!


I DIDN'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THAT TRIP INTO TOWN WAS DESTINED TO CHANGE MY WHOLE LIFE!
...AND FIVE POUNDS OF BACON, AND... OH YES, A BOX OF 30-CALIBER RIFLE AMMUNITION! RECKON THAT'S ALL, MR. KENT!
SHOR, CARRIE, I'LL PUT IT IN YORE BUCKBOARD!
MIGHTY BIG ORDER FOR A LITTLE GAL, AIN'T IT? GOIN' ON A PICNIC?

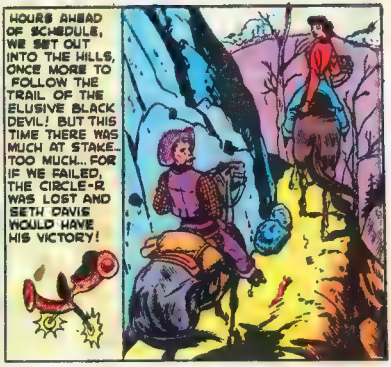
I HARDLY THINK THAT'S ANY OF YOUR CONCERN! WHO IS THIS, ANYWAY, MR. KENT?
RANCE GORDON, MA'AM, AT YOUR SERVICE! AN' I SEE YOUR BUCKBOARD'S FROM THE CIRCLE-R, SO YOU MUST BE BUCK ROGERS' DAUGHTER CAROLINE!

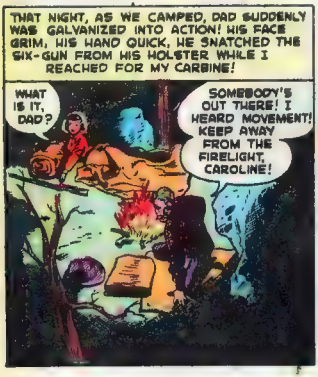
DON'T BE SO UPPITY! LET'S GET TO BE FRIENDS... NEVER CAN TELL BUT WE MIGHT HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!
I COULD NEVER HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH YOU!
GENERAL STORE

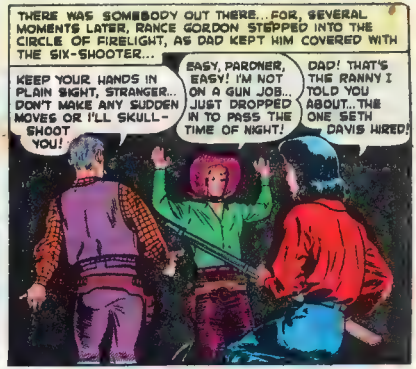
NOT EVEN BLACK DEVIL? ...HEY!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
SLAP!

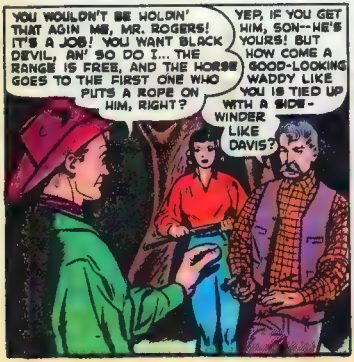
YOUNG FELLER, YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN I CAN USE! I'LL PAY YOU THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS ABOVE THE REWARD, IF YOU CAPTURE BLACK DEVIL! HOW ABOUT IT?
SOLD! I'LL HAVE HIM ON THE END OF A ROPE BEFORE YOU CAN COUNT OUT MY DOUGH!

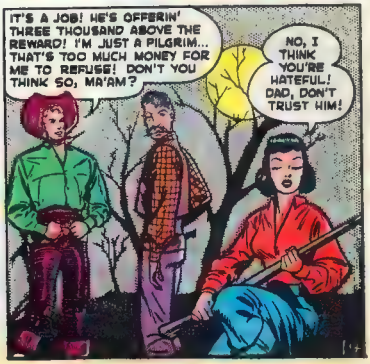
I LASHED THE HORSES FEVERISHLY AS I HURRIED HOME! WE'D HAVE TO START OUT IMMEDIATELY, DAD AND I, IF WE INTENDED TO BE THE CAPTORS OF BLACK DEVIL!
BACK AT THE CIRCLE-R, I REVEALED THE NEW COMPLICATION TO DAD...


HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, WE SET OUT INTO THE HILLS, ONCE MORE TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF THE ELUSIVE BLACK DEVIL! BUT THIS TIME THERE WAS MUCH AT STAKE.. TOO MUCH... FOR IF WE FAILED, THE CIRCLE-R WAS LOST AND SETH DAVIS WOULD HAVE HIS VICTORY!


THAT NIGHT, AS WE CAMPED, DAD SUDDENLY WAS GALVANIZED INTO ACTION! HIS FACE GRIM, HIS HAND QUICK, HE SNATCHED THE SIX-GUN FROM HIS HOLSTER WHILE I REACHED FOR MY CARBINE!
WHAT IS IT, DAD?
SOMEBODY'S OUT THERE! I HEARD MOVEMENT! KEEP AWAY FROM THE FIRELIGHT, CAROLINE!

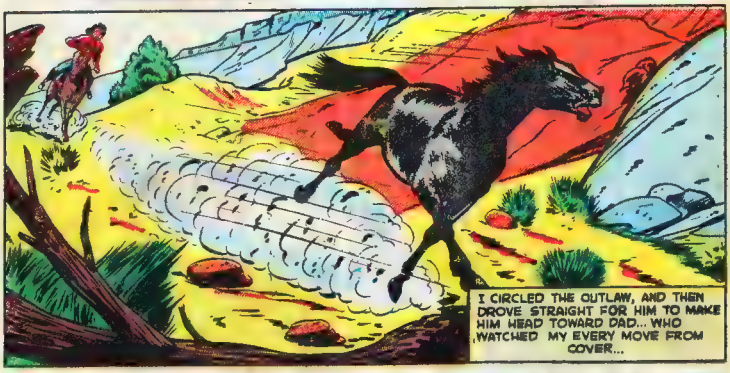

THERE WAS SOMEBODY OUT THERE... FOR, SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER, RANCE GORDON STEPPED INTO THE CIRCLE OF FIRELIGHT, AS DAD KEPT HIM COVERED WITH THE SIX-SHOOTER...
KEEP YOUR HANDS IN PLAIN SIGHT, STRANGER... DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES OR I'LL SKULL-SHOOT YOU!
EASY, PARDNER, EASY! I'M NOT ON A GUN JOB... JUST DROPPED IN TO PASS THE TIME OF NIGHT!
DAD! THAT'S THE RANNY I TOLD YOU ABOUT.. THE ONE SETH DAVIS HIRED!


YOU WOULDN'T BE HOLDIN' THAT AGIN ME, MR. ROGERS! IT'S A JOB! YOU WANT BLACK DEVIL, AN' SO DO I... THE RANGE IS FREE, AND THE HORSE GOES TO THE FIRST ONE WHO PUTS A ROPE ON HIM, RIGHT?
YEP, IF YOU GET HIM, SON--HE'S YOURS! BUT HOW COME A GOOD-LOOKING WADDY LIKE YOU IS TIED UP WITH A SIDE-WINDER LIKE DAVIS?

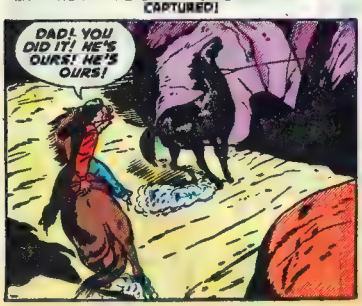

IT'S A JOB! HE'S OFFERIN' THREE THOUSAND ABOVE THE REWARD! I'M JUST A PILGRIM... THAT'S TOO MUCH MONEY FOR ME TO REFUSE! DON'T YOU THINK SO, MA'AM?
NO, I THINK YOU'RE HATEFUL! DAD, DON'T TRUST HIM!

THE NEXT MORNING WE HIT THE TRAIL EARLY AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE PICKED UP BLACK DEVIL'S TRACKS! WE RODE FASTER NOW, UNTIL...

THERE HE STOOD, LIKE THE KING HE WAS--BLACK DEVIL, THE OUTLAW STALLION, IN ALL HIS MAGNIFICENCE! CAREFULLY DAD UNCOILED HIS LARIAT...



FASTER WE WENT...FASTER...FASTER...AND SUDDENLY A LARIAT SWISHED THROUGH THE AIR! IT COILED AROUND THE GREAT STALLION'S NECK AND PULLED HIM UP SHORT! A SHOUT OF TRIUMPH WELLED IN MY THROAT--THE OUTLAW STALLION WAS CAPTURED!



BUT AN INSTANT LATER MY TRIUMPH TURNED TO BITTER DEFEAT! FOR IT WAS NOT DAD WHO HAD LASSOED BLACK DEVIL... BUT RANCE GORDON!

WHY, YOU ORNERY DRY-GULCHER... YOU TOOK HIM RIGHT FROM UNDER MY NOSE!
AIN'T MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE? MY ROPE'S ON HIM AND YOU KNOW THE RULES, MISTER!
OHH... DON'T EVEN TALK TO HIM, DAD!

SO WE RODE AWAY... BUT LOOKING BACK WE SAW THE ONLY HOPE WE HAD LEFT AT THE END OF RANCE GORDON'S LARIAT! NOW WE WERE TRULY LOST...THERE WAS NOTHING ... SETH • DAVIS HAD WON!

IT WAS SO CLOSE, DAD, SO VERY CLOSE!
AIN'T EASY FOR A MAN MY AGE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN! THIS TOOK THE FIGHT OUT OF ME... I'M GLAD YOUR MOTHER ISN'T ALIVE TO SEE THIS!

AND DESPITE MYSELF, THE TEARS FLOWED DOWN MY CHEEKS...TEARS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND RAGE...MORE FOR DAD THAN MYSELF! INDEED, I WISHED AT THAT MOMENT FOR THE GROUND TO SWALLOW US UP...

POOR DAD! HE'S LOST EVERYTHING...YET HE'S STILL BRAVE! I'LL HAVE TO GET CONTROL OF MYSELF--CAN'T LET HIM KNOW THAT I'VE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE!

ONE MORNING, A FEW DAYS LATER...
IT'S THE SHERIFF--RECKON HE'S GOIN' TO SERVE US WITH THE PRELIMINARY PAPERS!
SETH DAVIS LOSES NO TIME, DOES HE?
FOLKS...THERE'S GOOD NEWS! FELLER NAMED RANCE GORDON, THE ONE CAPTURED BLACK DEVIL, JUST DEPOSITED THREE THOUSAND WITH ME TO PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE...AND LEFT TOWN!
WHAT? I...CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
A MOMENT LATER I WAS ON MY HORSE, RACING FOR THE EDGE OF TOWN, HEEDLESS OF THE SHOUTS BEHIND ME...
CARRIE!
LET HER GO, ROGERS--THAT GIRL'S GOT SOMETHING ON HER HEART THAT HAS TO BE SAID!
I'VE BEEN WRONG...WRONG! I ONLY HOPE IT ISN'T TOO LATE!
I CAUGHT RANCE AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...
RANCE...I'VE COME TO APOLOGIZE, AND THANK YOU! WHY...DID YOU DO IT?
BECAUSE I HAD TO GET EVEN WITH SETH DAVIS! ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO, HE DISPOSSESSED MY FATHER...AND I USED HIS METHOD TO GET EVEN! I'M GOIN' AFTER HIM NOW--HE SKIPPED TOWN WHEN HE FOUND OUT WHO I AM!
NO WONDER DAD THOUGHT HE KNEW YOU--YOUR FOLKS LIVED IN THE VALLEY, RANCE...PLEASE DON'T LEAVE! DO STAY...DON'T RIDE OUT OF MY LIFE!
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
YES...LOOKING AT THE HILLS BRINGS BACK A FLOOD OF MEMORIES! RANCE AND I ARE MARRIED NOW, AND HAPPINESS REIGNS AT THE CIRCLE-R! TO THIS DAY I'M GLAD IT WAS RANCE WHO CAPTURED BLACK DEVIL...AND THAT WE RODE THE TRAIL OF THE OUTLAW STALLION!
The End
7

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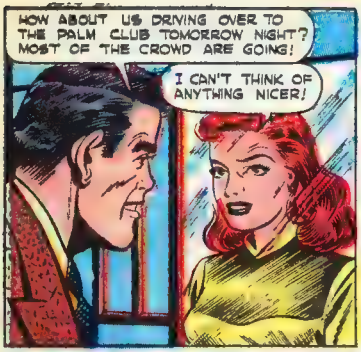
ONE ALONE!

OH, ALAN, ALAN, MY DARLING... IT'S YOU I *REALLY* WANT! I KNOW THAT NOW... BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
"THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE!" I HAD ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY... ALWAYS WANTED SOMETHING UNTIL I GOT IT! AND NOW IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE! I HAD HAD MY CHANCE WITH ALAN... AND LOST IT... BECAUSE NOW HE WAS GOING TO MARRY SOMEONE ELSE!
6780

I OFTEN HAD DINNER WITH ALAN WALLACE AND HIS FATHER IN WHOSE OFFICE WE BOTH WORKED! ALAN'S FATHER HAD ALWAYS SEEMED TO LIKE ME, AND TONIGHT HE WAS PARTICULARLY CORDIAL! I SENSED SOMETHING SPECIAL IN ALAN'S MANNER TOO...

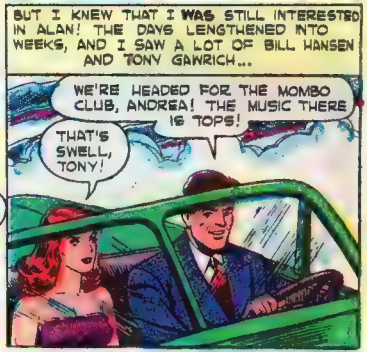
YOU SHOULD COME HERE MORE OFTEN, ANDREA! WITH JUST TWO MEN AROUND HERE, IT GETS LONELY! WE CERTAINLY DO ENJOY HAVING YOU!
OH, THANK YOU, MR. WALLACE!

I KNEW IT WAS COMING THEN! ONLY A WEEK AGO I HAD THOUGHT I'D BE SO THRILLED! BUT NOW...
I CAN'T KEEP FROM ASKING YOU ANY LONGER, DARLING! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME!
OH... ALAN...
I HAD THOUGHT FOR A LONG TIME THAT ALAN AND I WERE FALLING IN LOVE, AND I WAS SO HAPPY! NOW, LIKE A RAINBOW DISSOLVING IN THE TWILIGHT, ALL THE ROMANCE OF IT WAS GONE!
I... GUESS I DON'T WANT HIM AFTER ALL! I WAS SILLY TO THINK THAT I DID!
I LIKE YOU A LOT, ALAN! I JUST NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU IN THAT WAY! PLEASE, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT!
BUT, ANDREA... WHY... WHY, I THOUGHT... YOU ALWAYS LED ME TO BELIEVE...
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TAKING AN AWFUL LOT FOR GRANTED, ALAN? REALLY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
OHH! WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT...
THAT NIGHT I LAY AWAKE FOR A LONG TIME, THINKING OF ALAN! I HAD WANTED ALAN WALLACE! BUT WHEN I REALIZED I HAD HIM, SUDDENLY I WAS THINKING OF OTHER MEN! BILL HANSEN, FOR INSTANCE... THE NEW TELLER AT THE BANK! IT WAS LIKE THE GRASS BEYOND THE FENCE, THAT ALWAYS LOOKS GREENER!
I WAS FOOLING MYSELF. THINKING ALAN WAS THE MAN I WANTED! HE ISN'T-- I WAS WRONG! BUT SOMEONE ELSE? BILL HANSEN, MAYBE? OR TONY?
IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME! THE BOY WHO WALKED HOME WITH THE OTHER GIRL ALWAYS SEEMED THE NICEST BOY! AND NOW, THE DAY AFTER THAT SUPPER WITH ALAN...
HELLO, ANDREA! SAY, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU, AND IN YOU WALK!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! SO WAS I THINKING OF YOU, BILL!
2


HOW ABOUT US DRIVING OVER TO THE PALM CLUB TOMORROW NIGHT? MOST OF THE CROWD ARE GOING!
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING NICER!

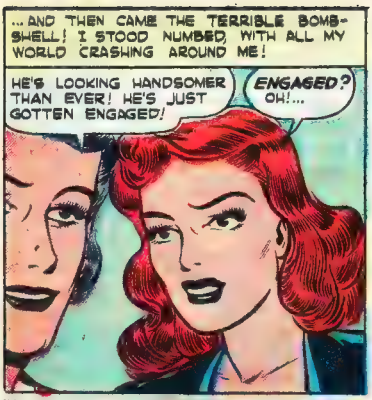
AND THAT NEXT NIGHT...
I MET ALAN WALLACE THIS MORNING-- HE WAS JUST LEAVING FOR SAVANNAH! GOING TO STUDY THE COTTON INDUSTRY-- HE AND HIS FATHER PLAN TO OPEN A NEW MILL!
WELL, THAT IS NEWS!
SAVANNAH?

HIS SUDDEN TRIP CAUSED A FLURRY OF INTEREST AMONG THE GIRLS!
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ALAN?
DON'T BE SILLY! ME AND ALAN WALLACE? I WASN'T INTERESTED IN HIM!
HE SURE DID LEAVE IN A HURRY... DID SOMETHING GO WRONG, ANDREA?
DID YOU DISAGREE?
WHAT HAPPENED?

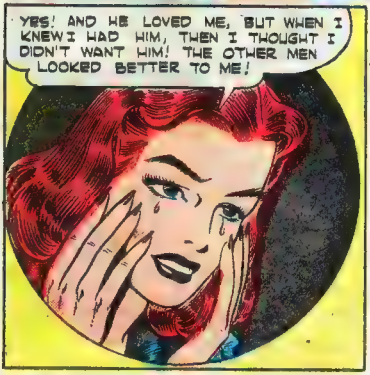

BUT I KNEW THAT I WAS STILL INTERESTED IN ALAN! THE DAYS LENGTHENED INTO WEEKS, AND I SAW A LOT OF BILL HANSEN AND TONY GAWRICH...
WE'RE HEADED FOR THE MOMBO CLUB, ANDREA! THE MUSIC THERE IS TOPS!
THAT'S SWELL, TONY!

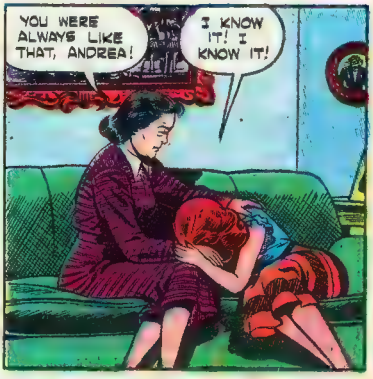
...THE GREENER GRASS! IF ONLY ALAN WOULD WRITE TO ME! BUT HE NEVER DID! AND THEN ONE DAY A LETTER CAME FOR ME FROM MY AUNT MARY, IN SAVANNAH! TO SEE ALAN AGAIN! I WAS THRILLED AS I TOOK THE LONG DISTANCE BUS THE NEXT MORNING!
SHE WANTS ME TO SPEND MY VACATION VISITING HER! OF COURSE, THAT'S JUST WHAT I'LL DO!

IT'S JUST LOVELY BEING HERE WITH YOU AGAIN, AUNT MARY! BY THE WAY, YOU REMEMBER ALAN WALLACE, DON'T YOU? HE'S STAYING HERE IN SAVANNAH! HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? I THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE HIM OVER FOR SUPPER SOME NIGHT!
ALAN WALLACE? WHY, YES--WE MET ON THE STREET JUST THE OTHER DAY!


...AND THEN CAME THE TERRIBLE BOMB-SHELL! I STOOD NUMBED, WITH ALL MY WORLD CRASHING AROUND ME!
HE'S LOOKING HANDSOMER THAN EVER! HE'S JUST GOTTEN ENGAGED!
ENGAGED?
OH!...

OH, I KNEW THEN THAT IT WAS ALAN WHOM I HAD ALWAYS LOVED! ONLY MY CHILDISHLY IMMATURE ATTITUDE KEPT ME FROM REALIZING IT!
ENGAGED? ALAN ENGAGED? I'VE LOST HIM, AND I LOVE HIM SO!
YOU LOVE HIM, ANDREA?


YES! AND HE LOVED ME, BUT WHEN I KNEW I HAD HIM, THEN I THOUGHT I DIDN'T WANT HIM! THE OTHER MEN LOOKED BETTER TO ME!


YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT, ANDREA!
I KNOW IT! I KNOW IT!

I HARDLY KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING... I JUST WANTED TO BE ALONE! I FOUND MYSELF ON A LITTLE PATH BY THE BAY! IT WAS WHERE I HAD FIRST MET ALAN!
ALAN! ALAN! MY DARLING! IF ONLY I HAD REALIZED-- AND NOW I'VE LOST YOU!

THEN AT LAST, AS I TURNED TO GO HOME...
YOUR AUNT TELEPHONED ME! I CAME FOR YOU, ANDREA!
ALAN!!

OH, ALAN... YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME NOW, AND THEN I'LL GO! YOU'RE ENGAGED! SO CONGRATULATIONS! I JUST WANT TO RECALL HOW CRUEL I WAS TO YOU! I...
YOUR AUNT TOLD ME, ANDREA!
I WAS SO CRUEL TO YOU-- SO STUPIDLY CRUEL! I LOVED YOU THEN, ALAN, I DID! AND I ALWAYS WILL! ONLY I COULDN'T SEEM TO REALIZE IT! OH, ALAN...
ANDREA, DARLING! YOU DO LOVE ME-- DON'T YOU? THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR-- WAITING FOR!
I WENT TO SEE YOUR AUNT, AND I TOLD HER HOW I'D BEEN SURE YOU LOVED ME, AND THEN FOUND YOU DIDN'T! SHE UNDERSTOOD IT, ANDREA! SHE EXPLAINED IT TO ME THEN!
OHH?!
I SUGGESTED SHE WRITE AND INVITE YOU FOR A VISIT, AND, WHEN SHE GOT THE CHANCE, TO TELL YOU THAT I WAS ENGAGED! I'M NOT! THERE NEVER WAS ANYONE BUT YOU! AND THERE NEVER WILL BE!
I JUST COULDN'T SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT YOU DIDN'T LOVE ME! I HOPED MY PLAN WOULD MAKE YOU REALIZE...
OH, DARLING! I DO... I DO!
I'LL NEVER BE LIKE THAT AGAIN, DARLING! I COULDN'T BE!
OF COURSE NOT, SWEETHEART! WE LOVE EACH OTHER-- NOTHING IN THE WORLD COULD BE BETTER THAN THAT!
The End

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"Your Tranzform garment seems to hold me in better than any other garment I have ever worn. I am delighted with it. Just as you say, your clothes fit better. This garment with the inner satin-front and hips certainly does a lot. Have never had any luck with any other garments. Thought I had to wear steels and laced fronts, but thanks to Tranzform I am down a lot of advertising among my friends."
—Miss M. S., Mass.

"I actually look forward to putting on my Tranzform every afternoon."
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"I ordered a Tranzform girdle from you. I like it so well and I want to order another one."
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GLAMOUR VS. LOVE

FOR the first time in my twenty-two years I found myself in a beauty parlor. Pierre swirled a bang of hair over my eye and looked eagerly in the mirror for my approval.

"Ah-h! We will make Mademoiselle most chic for her so special young man, oui?"

"I hope so, Pierre," I said, with rising confidence. "I'm completely in your hands."

Just how much depended upon him, I don't think Pierre ever knew.

My special young man was arriving from Brazil in just three hours for the most important meeting in my life. At last I was going to meet Ralph Crane with whom I had fallen in love, even though I had never met him.

Our correspondence had begun upon a tragic abyss of loneliness and despair. My father, a construction engineer, had been killed by a falling girder two years before, and Ralph, as his assistant, had the bitter task of relaying the tragedy. Ralph seemed to sense my loneliness—how desperately I needed someone. We wrote more and more frequently. And then, just a week ago, his letter had come telling me that soon we would be together. He was flying to New York for his new assignment, and one glorious week would be ours.

Those next few days were tormenting. I was caught in a hopeless mesh of impatient yearning and the desire to be crushed in his embrace, yet there was one bitter truth of which Ralph had no suspicion—my plainness. Quiet, homespun features are not particularly glamorous, nor are mousy brown hair and eyes, and with a name like Carmen Montellesque, you can see how ironic it was. I could visualize, only too well, the exotic image Ralph must carry of me—an image of dark, haunting beauty. He had wanted my picture, but somehow I had always managed to avoid sending him one. Now there was no longer any way of escaping, and this realization told me that instead of staying the rest of my life in his arms, I might be sending him away forever on a wave of disillusionment.

Today, I had found courage through Pierre. Molded by his expert hands, I hoped to be changed into the kind of girl Ralph had envisioned—a Carmen Montellesque who would reflect all that the name might suggest.

The hours passed in a breathless agony of suspenseful waiting. Finally, Pierre was through. He turned me toward the mirror.

"Mademoiselle is pleased?" he asked.

The face that looked back at me was no longer mine. Instead, I beheld an image of glamorous piquancy.

"Oh, Pierre!" I gasped. "That can't be *me*!"

"Oui. Mademoiselle shall knock him for a loop," he laughed.

Armored with Pierre's artistry, I went back to my apartment to wait for Ralph, happy in my newly-found confidence. When the bell rang, silver keys rippled along my spine. I opened the door and saw the tall figure of Ralph waiting, his face deeply tanned and the most handsome man I had ever seen.

"Ralph," I whispered almost inaudibly.

I waited for him to sweep me deep in his arms. I had imagined this moment so many times. But he stood staring at me, embarrassed and smiling boyishly.

"Hello," he stammered, and added, "Carmen?" like an uncertain question. With a strong, warm pressure, he clasped my hand.

It wasn't the way I had hoped it would be. Something in Ralph's eyes and in his manner was a little tense. But from that first moment, I knew more than ever how deeply I loved him.

We dined out that evening. I think we both feared the tension of being alone; besides, Ralph had been away from the glitter of a big city for a long time, and I knew how much going out to gay places must mean to him. Later, as we said goodnight, my heart pounded wildly for the pressure of Ralph's lips on mine—but it didn't come. His eyes flickered for a moment though the smile on his face didn't change. Ralph seemed to have steeled himself

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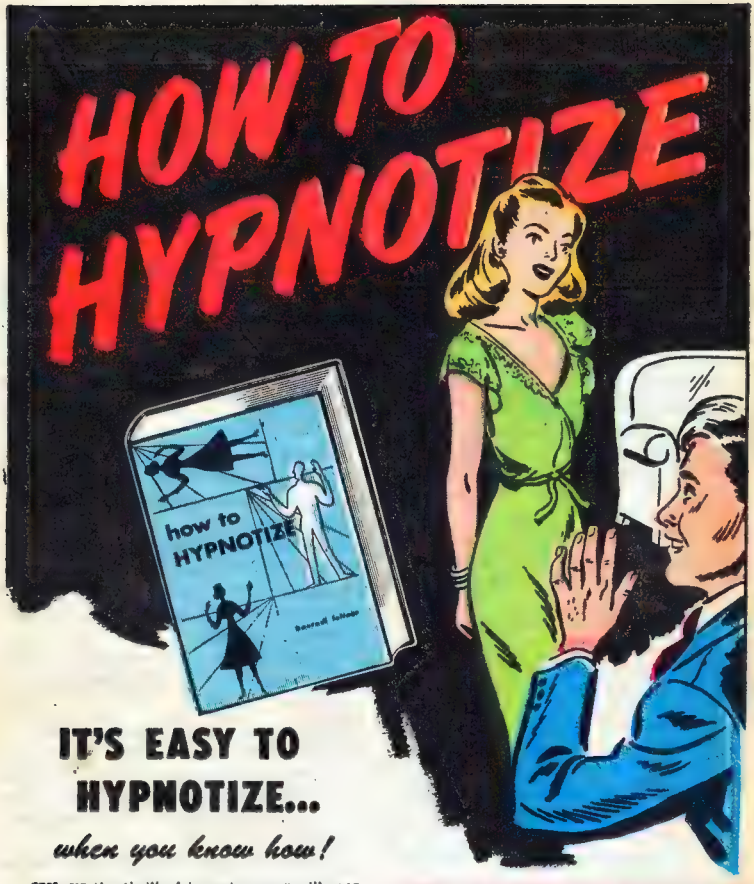

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CONTINUED

in a way I couldn't understand, unless it was some strong, inner code which cautioned him to let our emotions be sure.

"Tomorrow again?" he asked.

"Tomorrow," I answered, blissfully, feeling a tiny thrill.

"By next week," he laughed, "you'll be glad to be rid of me."

Then he was gone.

"Oh, Ralph," I whispered to the empty hall, "a whole lifetime wouldn't be long enough with you."

As the days passed, my doubts rose insistently. Nearly all our waking hours were spent together. I was deliriously happy, except for those instances when a strange, cool aloofness crept over Ralph. Though he frowned occasionally, he kept all seriousness from his voice, and made no sign that he longed to hold me in his arms.

Then, one morning, I awoke knowing our last day had come. Ralph telephoned around ten, saying a business conference would keep him until eight that evening. My heart sank with disappointment. Now I had only one evening left in which to win him.

Suddenly a plan came, and I knew what I must do. First, I had to find a dress so beautiful that it would melt Ralph into my arms for the rest of our lives. It was a tall order, and I searched for hours, but if any dress could perform miracles, the gown which I finally chose was the one. There were slippers to match. Earrings. Perfume. I was wildly extravagant, but I was gambling for my happiness. I consulted Madame Louise for poise and charm. I needed every art and device at my command. I had to be irresistible, ravishing . . . somehow, I had to break down Ralph's steel-like barrier.

At last, I was back in my apartment. I spread out all my treasures upon the bed in readiness, and then slipped into an old sweater and blue-jeans before dusting the apartment. Everything had to be perfect tonight. We would dine at home so it would be more cozy and intimate. There would be soft music and wine, and Ralph would relax and his resistance would disappear, at least I fervently hoped so.

By seven o'clock everything was ready except me. The table was set in one corner of the room. In the soft flickering candlelight, the silver would gleam and my eyes would shine. Dinner at eight-thirty. I tingled now with delicious happiness. I laughed as a passing glance of myself, in the mirror, revealed dishevelled hair and smudges across my cheeks. Not for long, I sang. I had one whole hour in which to be transformed by the magical array that waited for me.

As I started for the bathroom and my shower, the doorbell rang. "Good," I thought, "that must be the flowers." When I opened the door, my heart suddenly froze. I couldn't believe what I saw—it was Ralph! For a moment he looked at me with disbelieving eyes.

"I got through a little early—" I heard him say through the sinking chasm in which I spun. I wanted to die—to disappear. A voice inside me was crying, "This isn't possible!" but it was true. All my careful plans mocked me now. Fate had taken things into her own hands and had played a horrible trick on me. All I could feel was that Ralph was lost to me forever now. Then, in some illogical, mysterious, miraculous way, I found myself being crushed in Ralph's strong arms.

"Darling, darling, is it really you?" he was whispering against my ear.

I was trembling, uncertainly. "Ralph, you aren't disillusioned? You won't leave me now?" I cried out in anguish.

"Leave you?" I heard him laughing. "Never, my darling. You've been so beautiful, I've been afraid—"

I couldn't understand. "Afraid?" I asked.

"Yes, darling. You see, being an engineer's wife isn't very glamorous, and because I could give you so little of the luxuries you've been used to, I was afraid I couldn't make you happy."

I was crying now with happiness. Everything was mixed up, but I didn't care. "Ralph," I whispered, "I'll be yours however you want me."

"This is the way I want you," he answered. "Here, close in my arms!"

As Ralph bent down to kiss me, I caught a fleeting glimpse of my dress hanging on the bedroom door, and contentedly closing my eyes, I was grateful that my happiness hadn't depended upon such flimsy things.

THE END

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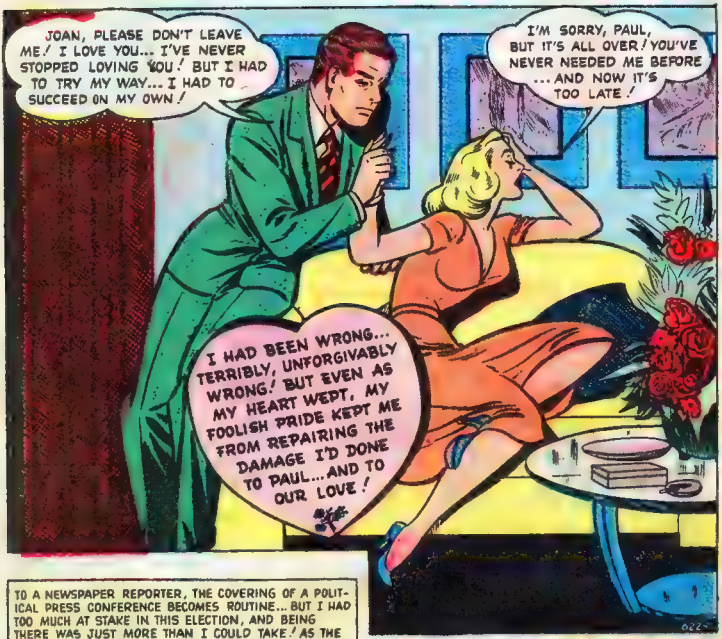
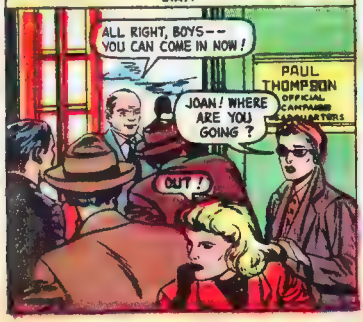
My FOOLISH HEART


JOAN, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME! I LOVE YOU... I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU! BUT I HAD TO TRY MY WAY... I HAD TO SUCCEED ON MY OWN!
I'M SORRY, PAUL, BUT IT'S ALL OVER! YOU'VE NEVER NEEDED ME BEFORE ... AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
I HAD BEEN WRONG... TERRIBLY, UNFORGIVABLY WRONG! BUT EVEN AS MY HEART WEPT, MY FOOLISH PRIDE KEPT ME FROM REPAIRING THE DAMAGE I'D DONE TO PAUL... AND TO OUR LOVE!

TO A NEWSPAPER REPORTER, THE COVERING OF A POLITICAL PRESS CONFERENCE BECOMES ROUTINE... BUT I HAD TOO MUCH AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION, AND BEING THERE WAS JUST MORE THAN I COULD TAKE! AS THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN, THE OTHER REPORTERS SWARMED INSIDE... I TRIED DESPERATELY TO FOLLOW, BUT A HEARTSICK FEELING SWEPT OVER ME ...I *COULDN'T* STAY!



OH, ANN--I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL, CARRYING ON THIS WAY!
LISTEN, JOAN, I DON'T LIKE PRYING INTO YOUR AFFAIRS, BUT MAYBE YOU'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU GOT IT OFF YOUR CHEST! C'MON --WE'RE OLD FRIENDS!

ALL RIGHT, ANN--MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! I NEVER DID TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY...YOU REMEMBER THAT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY RALLY WE ALL COVERED LAST MAY? MY EDITOR, BURT, WENT ALONG WITH ME...

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT NIGHT! THE PLACE WAS LOADED WITH POLITICIANS, AND EACH SPEAKER SOUNDED LIKE A CARBON COPY OF THE ONE BEFORE HIM! I WAS BORED STIFF...NOT WITH THE SUBJECT, BUT WITH THE WAY IT WAS BEING HANDLED! THEN, AS WE BROKE THROUGH THE CROWD AT THE DOORWAY...
PAUL! PAUL THOMPSON! WELL, I'LL BE...HEY--JOAN, C'MERE! I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE!
BURT, PLEASE! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF POLITICIANS FOR ONE NIGHT!

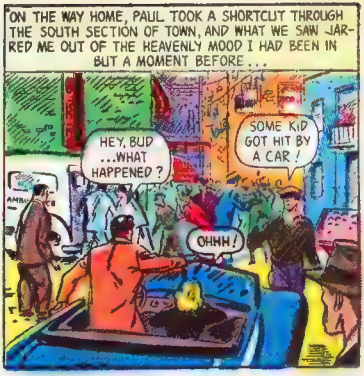
AND THEN WHEN I TURNED TO SEE IF BURT WAS COMING, I SAW PAUL FOR THE FIRST TIME...
JOAN, I WANT YOU TO MEET THE BEST LAWYER IN TOWN...PAUL THOMPSON!
THANKS FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BURT! SOMEHOW, I RESENT THE WAY SHE CALLED ME A POLITICIAN, ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M ONLY A BYSTANDER!
OH...I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPLY... IT'S JUST THAT...

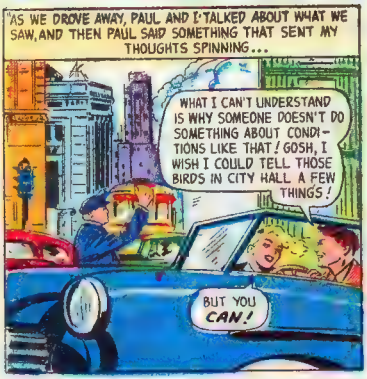
SORRY, I ONLY ACCEPT APOLOGIES OVER A DINNER TABLE --IF YOU SAY "NO", I'LL SUE YOU FOR SLANDER...AND I SELDOM LOSE A CASE!
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT ME CORNERED, MISTER THOMPSON...WHAT DO YOU THINK, BURT?
YOU'D BETTER GO, JOAN!

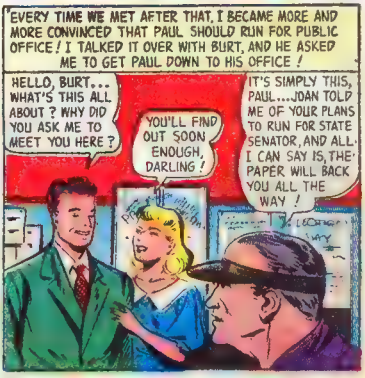
PAUL'S SMILE WAS HARD TO RESIST, AND WE WALKED DOWNTOWN TO A LITTLE FRENCH CAFE! AFTER DINNER, AS WE SAT TALKING, I FOUND MYSELF STRANGELY ATTRACTED TO HIM...
AM I FORGIVEN YET?
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND...PERHAPS IF WE DANCED...

ONCE ON THE DANCE FLOOR, I SLIPPED WILLINGLY INTO HIS ARMS, AND SOON WE GLIDED, AS ONE, TO THE ROMANTIC RHYTHM OF A WALTZ! SUDDENLY I FELT HIS ARMS DRAW ME CLOSER...
I'M A FORTHRIGHT PERSON, JOAN, AND I'D LIKE TO SAY WHAT I FEEL...
CAREFUL! REMEMBER I'M A REPORTER! I PRINT WHATEVER I HEAR!

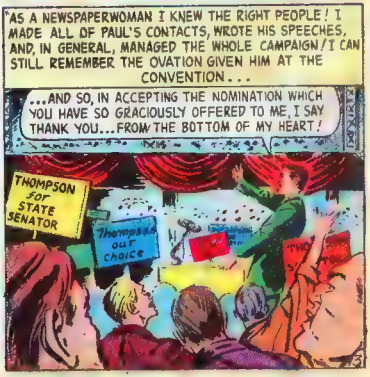
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO PRINT IT....IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE YOU, JOAN...VERY MUCH!
I'M GLAD, PAUL, BECAUSE I LIKE YOU, TOO... BUT I WON'T PRINT THAT!


ON THE WAY HOME, PAUL TOOK A SHORTCUT THROUGH THE SOUTH SECTION OF TOWN, AND WHAT WE SAW JARRED ME OUT OF THE HEAVENLY MOOD I HAD BEEN IN BUT A MOMENT BEFORE...
HEY, BUD ...WHAT HAPPENED?
SOME KID GOT HIT BY A CAR!
OHHH!

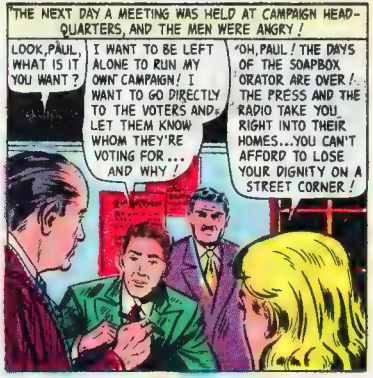

AS WE DROVE AWAY, PAUL AND I TALKED ABOUT WHAT WE SAW, AND THEN PAUL SAID SOMETHING THAT SENT MY THOUGHTS SPINNING...
WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY SOMEONE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT CONDITIONS LIKE THAT! GOSH, I WISH I COULD TELL THOSE BIRDS IN CITY HALL A FEW THINGS!
BUT YOU CAN!

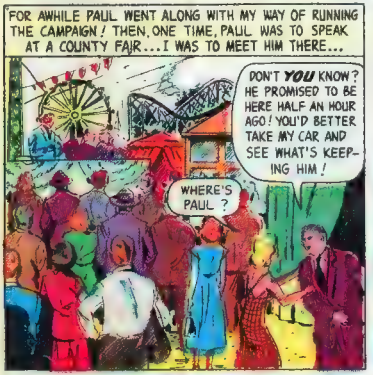

EVERY TIME WE MET AFTER THAT, I BECAME MORE AND MORE CONVINCED THAT PAUL SHOULD RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE! I TALKED IT OVER WITH BURT, AND HE ASKED ME TO GET PAUL DOWN TO HIS OFFICE!
HELLO, BURT... WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO MEET YOU HERE?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, DARLING!
IT'S SIMPLY THIS, PAUL... JOAN TOLD ME OF YOUR PLANS TO RUN FOR STATE SENATOR, AND ALL I CAN SAY IS, THE PAPER WILL BACK YOU ALL THE WAY!

FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT PAUL MIGHT BACK DOWN, BUT I FORESAW THAT AND ARRANGED TO HAVE SOME POLITICAL BIGWIGS THERE WHO ALSO HAD FAITH IN PAUL, AND HE COULDN'T RESIST THEM...
MY BOY, YOU'RE A NATURAL! I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR BRILLIANT LEGAL CAREER AND I'M CONVINCED OF YOUR CAPABILITIES! YOU CAN'T REFUSE! YOU OWE IT TO THE PEOPLE!
ALL RIGHT, JUDGE, I CAN'T FIGHT ALL OF YOU! IF THE PEOPLE WANT ME... I'M THEIRS!


AS A NEWSPAPERWOMAN I KNEW THE RIGHT PEOPLE! I MADE ALL OF PAUL'S CONTACTS, WROTE HIS SPEECHES, AND, IN GENERAL, MANAGED THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN! I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE OVATION GIVEN HIM AT THE CONVENTION...
...AND SO, IN ACCEPTING THE NOMINATION WHICH YOU HAVE SO GRACIOUSLY OFFERED TO ME, I SAY THANK YOU... FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
THOMPSON for STATE SENATOR
Thompson our choice

FOR A TIME EVERYTHING SEEMED TO GO ALONG WELL, BUT ONE DAY, AT A BANQUET, ALL THE POLITICAL BIGWIGS SHOWED UP, AND...
...AND IN CONCLUSION, GENTLEMEN, I SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IN SPITE OF THE APPRECIATION I HAVE FOR YOUR SUPPORT, IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO WILL VOTE FOR ME, AND IT IS FOR THEIR CAUSE I SHALL FIGHT...NO MATTER WHO GETS HURT !
THAT WASN'T IN THE SPEECH I WROTE...


THE NEXT DAY A MEETING WAS HELD AT CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS, AND THE MEN WERE ANGRY !
LOOK, PAUL, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ?
I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE TO RUN MY OWN CAMPAIGN ! I WANT TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS AND LET THEM KNOW WHOM THEY'RE VOTING FOR... AND WHY !
OH, PAUL ! THE DAYS OF THE SOAPBOX ORATOR ARE OVER ! THE PRESS AND THE RADIO TAKE YOU RIGHT INTO THEIR HOMES...YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR DIGNITY ON A STREET CORNER !


FOR AWHILE PAUL WENT ALONG WITH MY WAY OF RUNNING THE CAMPAIGN ! THEN, ONE TIME, PAUL WAS TO SPEAK AT A COUNTY FAIR...I WAS TO MEET HIM THERE...
DON'T YOU KNOW ? HE PROMISED TO BE HERE HALF AN HOUR AGO ! YOU'D BETTER TAKE MY CAR AND SEE WHAT'S KEEPING HIM !
WHERE'S PAUL ?

WHEN I FOUND HIM AT CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS, I WAS TERRIBLY HURT ! HE WAS COMPLETELY UNGRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING I TRIED DOING FOR HIM...
WHAT GOOD WOULD ONE MORE SPEECH DO ? YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT EVERY INDICATION SHOWS I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE ! I SHOULD HAVE DONE THINGS MY WAY !
PAUL, BE REASONABLE ! AFTER ALL, YOU WEREN'T VERY WELL KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE ! I'M TRYING TO DO ALL I CAN, AND...

SUDDENLY, I REALIZED THAT PAUL'S CAMPAIGN WAS BECOMING A WALL BETWEEN US, AND THOSE BEAUTIFUL DAYS, BEFORE IT ALL STARTED, SEEMED SO FAR AWAY...
I'M SORRY, JOAN ! I WISH YOU WOULDN'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY --MAYBE I OUGHT TO JUST GIVE THE WHOLE THING UP !
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TALKING TO ME THAT WAY, PAUL ! EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WAS FOR YOU !

YOU WON'T HAVE TO QUIT !... I WILL !
NO, JOAN... WAIT !

THE WEIGHT OF MY HEARTBREAK PRESSED HEAVILY ON ME FOR DAYS! THEN, ABOUT A WEEK LATER, I HEARD THAT PAUL HAD TAKEN OVER THE REINS OF HIS CAMPAIGN...AND IN A FEW MORE WEEKS HE HAD TOP PRIORITY IN THE HEADLINES!

DID YOU SEND FOR ME, BURT?

I HATE TO RUB IT IN, KID, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE PAUL WAS RIGHT! HE'S BEEN BARNSTORMING ALL OVER THE STATE, AND THE PEOPLE LOVE HIM! HE'S HOLDING A MEETING AT THE SOUTH END OF TOWN TODAY...I WANT YOU TO COVER IT!

I TRIED IN VAIN TO DUCK THE ASSIGNMENT, BUT BURT DIDN'T KNOW JUST HOW MUCH PAUL MEANT TO ME, OR HOW IT WOULD HURT TO SEE HIM AGAIN! I ARRIVED WHILE THE MEETING WAS IN FULL SWING...

WHAT YOU NEED IS GOOD HOUSING AND DECENT PLAYGROUNDS FOR YOUR CHILDREN --AND *I'LL* SEE THAT YOU GET THEM!

MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT AFTER ALL, PAUL!

WE WANT PAUL!

ON ELECTION DAY THE ENTIRE PAPER WAS IN AN UPROAR! BURT RUSHED INTO MY OFFICE!...

JOAN! PAUL WON! THE OPPOSITION HAS ALREADY CONCEDED TO HIM! GET DOWN TO CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS AT ONCE! PAUL'S HOLDING A VICTORY PRESS CONFERENCE!

BUT...BUT, BURT... COULDN'T SOMEONE ELSE GO?

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I HAD TO GO...BUT WHEN I GOT HERE I JUST COULDN'T FACE HIM!

AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, ANN...AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT! IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, I STILL LOVE HIM!

I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD SAY! PAUL IS A GOOD MAN, AND PERHAPS YOU CAN FIND SOME CONSOLATION IN THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH YOU LOST...THE PEOPLE WON!

OF COURSE I WAS GLAD PAUL HAD WON THE ELECTION, BUT ANN'S WORDS WERE POOR CONSOLATION FOR A BROKEN HEART! SUDDENLY THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN!...FRANTICALLY I JUMPED TO MY FEET TO AVOID PAUL'S EYE, BUT...

THANK YOU, SENATOR, AND CONGRATULATIONS!

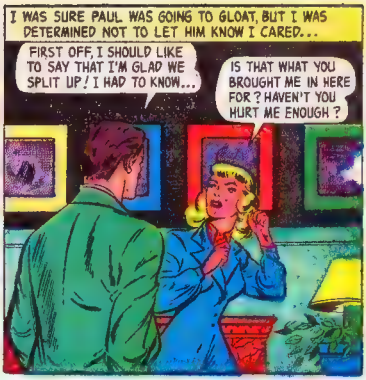
THANK YOU, BOYS, I... ***JOAN!***

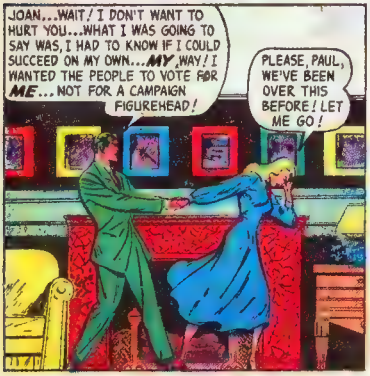
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW, KID... LOTS OF LUCK!

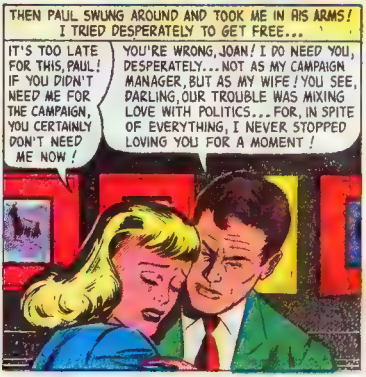
JOAN, COME ON INSIDE WITH ME! I WANT TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

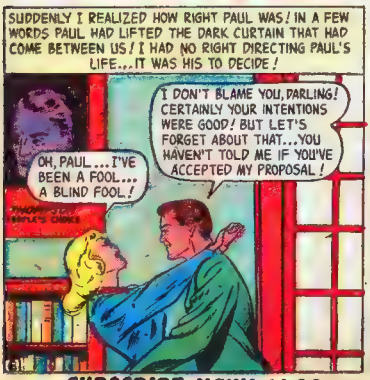
NEVER MIND, PAUL! I'LL READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS!

YOU WEREN'T AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, REMEMBER? FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, I THINK I SHOULD TELL YOU WHAT I TOLD THE REPORTERS...BUT, OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, I CAN PHONE THE STORY IN TO BURT!
ALL RIGHT, PAUL, YOU WIN AGAIN!


I WAS SURE PAUL WAS GOING TO GLOAT, BUT I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LET HIM KNOW I CARED...
FIRST OFF, I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M GLAD WE SPLIT UP! I HAD TO KNOW...
IS THAT WHAT YOU BROUGHT ME IN HERE FOR? HAVEN'T YOU HURT ME ENOUGH?


JOAN...WAIT! I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY WAS, I HAD TO KNOW IF I COULD SUCCEED ON MY OWN...MY WAY! I WANTED THE PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR ME...NOT FOR A CAMPAIGN FIGUREHEAD!
PLEASE, PAUL, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS BEFORE! LET ME GO!


THEN PAUL SWUNG AROUND AND TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS! I TRIED DESPERATELY TO GET FREE...
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THIS, PAUL! IF YOU DIDN'T NEED ME FOR THE CAMPAIGN, YOU CERTAINLY DON'T NEED ME NOW!
YOU'RE WRONG, JOAN! I DO NEED YOU, DESPERATELY...NOT AS MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER, BUT AS MY WIFE! YOU SEE, DARLING, OUR TROUBLE WAS MIXING LOVE WITH POLITICS...FOR, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, I NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU FOR A MOMENT!


SUDDENLY I REALIZED HOW RIGHT PAUL WAS! IN A FEW WORDS PAUL HAD LIFTED THE DARK CURTAIN THAT HAD COME BETWEEN US! I HAD NO RIGHT DIRECTING PAUL'S LIFE...IT WAS HIS TO DECIDE!
I DON'T BLAME YOU, DARLING! CERTAINLY YOUR INTENTIONS WERE GOOD! BUT LET'S FORGET ABOUT THAT...YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME IF YOU'VE ACCEPTED MY PROPOSAL!
OH, PAUL...I'VE BEEN A FOOL...A BLIND FOOL!

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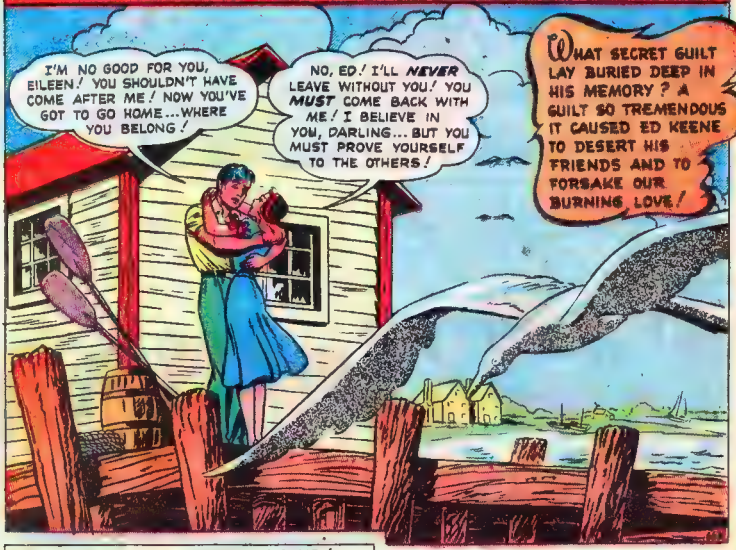
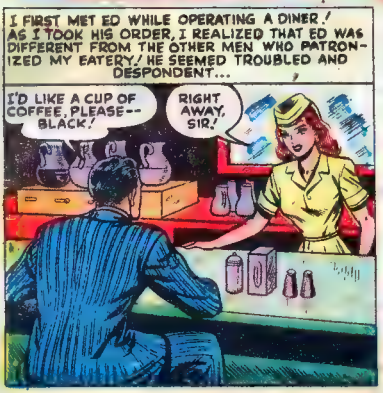
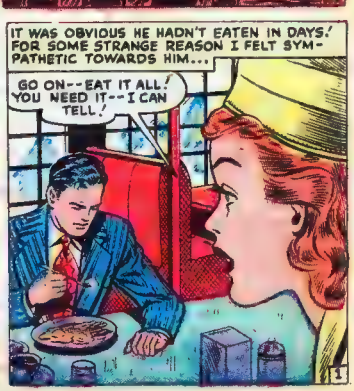
INTERLUDE IN THE SPRING!


I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU, EILEEN! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME AFTER ME! NOW YOU'VE GOT TO GO HOME...WHERE YOU BELONG!
NO, ED! I'LL NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT YOU! YOU MUST COME BACK WITH ME! I BELIEVE IN YOU, DARLING... BUT YOU MUST PROVE YOURSELF TO THE OTHERS!
WHAT SECRET GUILT LAY BURIED DEEP IN HIS MEMORY? A GUILT SO TREMENDOUS IT CAUSED ED KEENE TO DESERT HIS FRIENDS AND TO FORSAKE OUR BURNING LOVE!

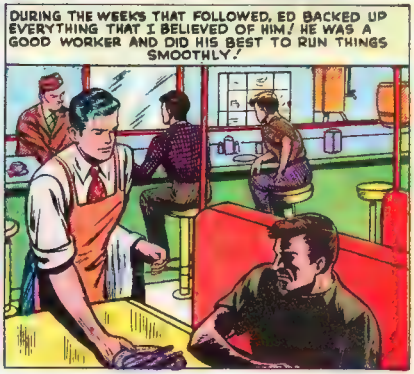

I FIRST MET ED WHILE OPERATING A DINER! AS I TOOK HIS ORDER, I REALIZED THAT ED WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER MEN WHO PATRONIZED MY EATERY! HE SEEMED TROUBLED AND DESPONDENT...
I'D LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE, PLEASE--BLACK!
RIGHT AWAY, SIR!


IT WAS OBVIOUS HE HADN'T EATEN IN DAYS! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON I FELT SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS HIM...
GO ON--EAT IT ALL! YOU NEED IT--I CAN TELL!

SAY, MY NAME IS EDWARD KEENE.' IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF GETTING A JOB AROUND HERE? I'LL DO ANYTHING... WASH DISHES, SCRUB FLOORS...
I'M EILEEN CONLEY.' MY BROTHER, AL, TAKES CARE OF THAT.' I'LL CHECK WITH HIM THOUGH.' PERHAPS HE DOES NEED SOME HELP.'
STEAK
VANILLA
COFFEE
MAPLE

I KNEW AL WOULDN'T APPROVE OF IT, BUT I HAD TO ASK HIM.' THIS MAN WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST... HE SEEMED SO ANXIOUS TO GET THE JOB.'
AL, YOU MUST GIVE HIM A CHANCE.' I'M SURE HE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS-- HE SEEMS DESPERATE FOR A JOB.'
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR HEAD? ALL THESE BUMS ARE JUST ALIKE-- THEY'RE NOT WORTH ANYTHING.'

NEVERTHELESS, I HAD MY WAY.' AL CONCEDED, AND I HIRED ED AS A HANDYMAN.'
WE DO NEED A DISHWASHER, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.'
I'LL... BE GLAD TO DO ANY KIND OF WORK.' THANK YOU, MISS CONLEY.'
VANILLA
STRAWBERRY
COFFEE
MAPLE


DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, ED BACKED UP EVERYTHING THAT I BELIEVED OF HIM.' HE WAS A GOOD WORKER AND DID HIS BEST TO RUN THINGS SMOOTHLY.'

IT WAS STRANGE HOW HE WORKED--HE NEVER SAID A WORD, AND YET I FELT THAT, DEEP DOWN INSIDE, SOMETHING WAS TROUBLING HIM... TROUBLING HIM BADLY.'

I HESITATED TO ASK HIM, BUT FINALLY I FOUND ENOUGH COURAGE TO DO SO...
ED, WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU? YOU... SHOULDN'T BE SO DESPONDENT.'
I APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS, EILEEN, BUT I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT.'
2

I DIDN'T REALIZE ED WAS INTERESTED IN THE SEA, UNTIL THAT EVENING IN THE APPLE ORCHARD, BEHIND THE DINER! I'D GOTTEN HIM OUT THERE ON A PRETENSE, DETERMINED SOMEHOW TO GET TO KNOW THIS MAN WHO ATTRACTED ME SO STRANGELY...

ED, WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU CAME TO US? I MEAN...

YOU NEEDN'T BE EMBARRASSED FOR ASKING, EILEEN! I WAS A LOBSTERMAN IN MAINE--ONE OF THE BEST FISHERMEN IN THE EAST!

I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT HAPPENED... SUDDENLY WE WERE DRAWN TOGETHER! IT WAS THE LAST THING I EXPECTED!

EILEEN! I...

OH, ED! DON'T SAY ANYTHING--JUST HOLD ME CLOSE!

I GUESS IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY AL, JUST HOW ED AND I FELT! AL DIDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL...

EILEEN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF! THAT GUY IS NOTHING BUT A BUM!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A CHANCE, AL?

I FORGAVE AL FOR HIS PREJUDICE AGAINST ED, AND DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS EVERYTHING WENT ALONG SMOOTHLY...

JUST A FEW DOZEN MORE, HONEY, AND WE'LL BE ALL THROUGH!

PERHAPS WE CAN GET SOME SWIMMING IN BEFORE SUNDOWN!

THEN, ONE EVENING, A HORRIBLE THING HAPPENED! AL DID EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO PREVENT IT...

STOP! *STOP!* YOU THIEF--*STOP!*

WHY HAD ED DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER THE ROBBERY? I KNEW HE HADN'T COMMITTED IT, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE POLICE AND MY BROTHER THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY!

THAT'S RIGHT, OFFICER--HE'S THE MAN! RIGHT AFTER THE HOLDUP HE VANISHED! I'M POSITIVE HE TOOK THE MONEY!

HIS FACE LOOKS FAMILIAR! KEENE... EH? WE'LL CHECK THIS PHOTO WITH OUR FILE AND SEND OUT AN ALARM RIGHT AWAY!

I KNEW WHAT AL THOUGHT... I KNEW WHAT THEY ALL THOUGHT! BUT, DEEP WITHIN MY HEART, I KNEW THEY WERE ALL WRONG!

WHAT'D I TELL YOU? HE'S NOTHING BUT A CHEAP CROOK! YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WHOLE THING, EILEEN!

THE POLICE LOST NO TIME IN TRYING TO TRACK DOWN ED! THEY SENT OUT A THREE-STATE ALARM... THEY WERE POSITIVE THAT HE HAD COMMITTED THE ROBBERY!

THAT'S RIGHT! WITH THIS THREE-STATE ALARM OUT, HE WON'T GET FAR!

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING -- I'VE GOT TO!

I KNEW THAT I HAD TO FREE ED FROM THIS HORRIBLE ACCUSATION! I WAS CERTAIN HE HADN'T COMMITTED THE CRIME, BUT I HAD TO PROVE IT FINALLY...

I MUST FIND HIM MYSELF, BEFORE THE POLICE DO! HE ALWAYS DREAMED OF GOING BACK TO MAINE -- PERHAPS I'LL FIND HIM THERE!

HAVE YOU SEEN EDWARD KEENE?

HUH? NEVER HEARD OF HIM! SORRY!

DAY AFTER DAY, WEEK AFTER WEEK, I SEARCHED FOR ED UP AND DOWN THE SEACOAST, BUT IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME ANSWER...

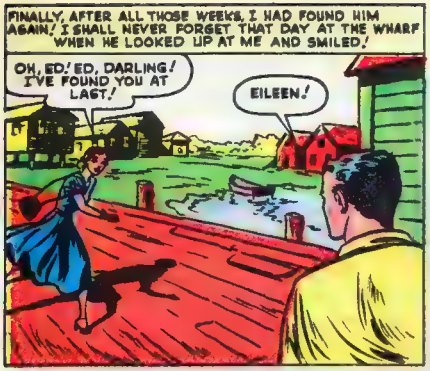
HAVE YOU SEEN EDWARD KEENE?

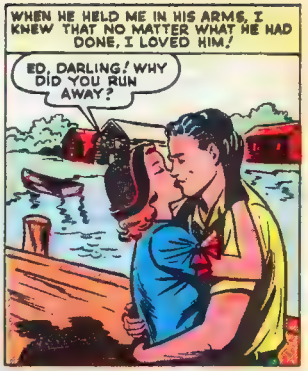
SORRY, MA'AM! CAN'T RECOLLECT THE NAME!

FINALLY I GOT A LEAD! IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR, BUT THE LITTLE OLD LADY AT THE ANTIQUE SHOP DID OFFER SOME ENCOURAGEMENT...

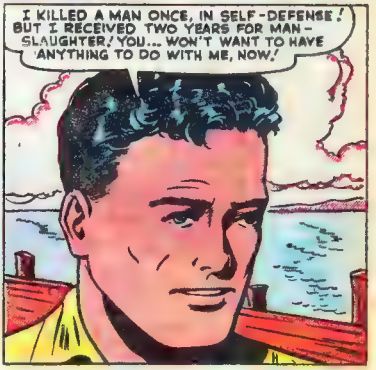
KEENE? KEENE? OH, YES! WHY, HE'S A NEW ARRIVAL IN TOWN! I BELIEVE HE'S DOWN AT THE WHARF!

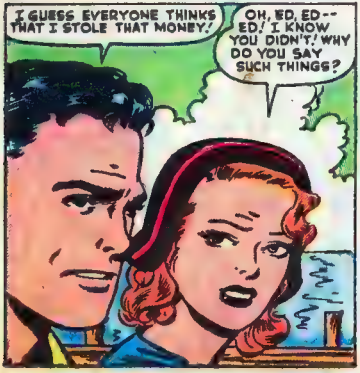
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

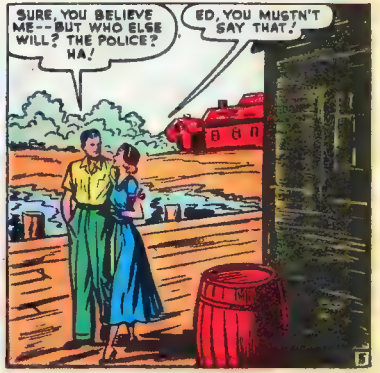

FINALLY, AFTER ALL THOSE WEEKS, I HAD FOUND HIM AGAIN! I SHALL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY AT THE WHARF WHEN HE LOOKED UP AT ME AND SMILED!
OH, ED! ED, DARLING! I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!
EILEEN!


WHEN HE HELD ME IN HIS ARMS, I KNEW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HE HAD DONE, I LOVED HIM!
ED, DARLING! WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU! YOU SEE, WHEN YOU GAVE ME A JOB AT YOUR DINER, I... WAS AN EX-CON...


I KILLED A MAN ONCE, IN SELF-DEFENSE! BUT I RECEIVED TWO YEARS FOR MAN-SLAUGHTER! YOU... WON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, NOW!


I GUESS EVERYONE THINKS THAT I STOLE THAT MONEY!
OH, ED, ED--ED! I KNOW YOU DIDN'T! WHY DO YOU SAY SUCH THINGS?


SURE, YOU BELIEVE ME--BUT WHO ELSE WILL? THE POLICE? HA!
ED, YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT!

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT! I BELIEVE YOU, DARLING, BUT YOU MUST PROVE TO THEM THAT YOU'RE STRAIGHT NOW!

THAT'S A LAUGH! THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE AN EX-CON! I'M BETTER OFF WHERE I AM!

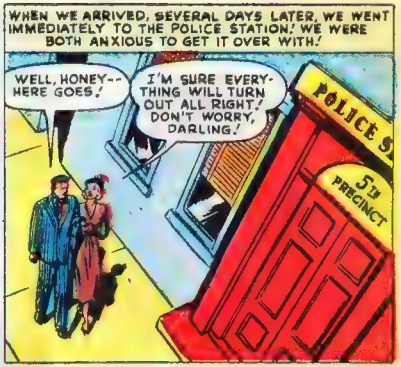
BUT YOU'RE INNOCENT--YOU'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND PROVE IT TO THEM!

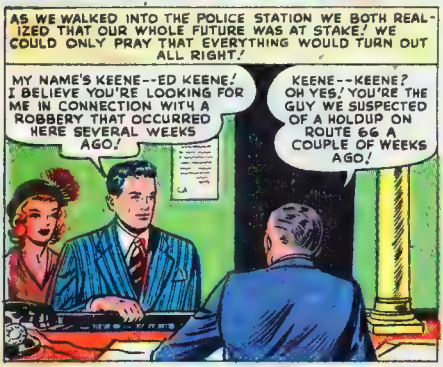
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M MARKED FOR LIFE! I KILLED A MAN! THEY'LL NEVER FORGET IT!
OH, ED! ED!

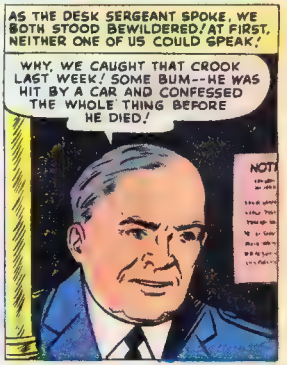
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE THAT WAY! YOU MUST PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU WERE! PLEASE COME BACK TO OHIO WITH ME!
I WON'T GO BACK THERE AGAIN! I'M INNOCENT, BUT HOW CAN I PROVE IT? THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME, I TELL YOU!

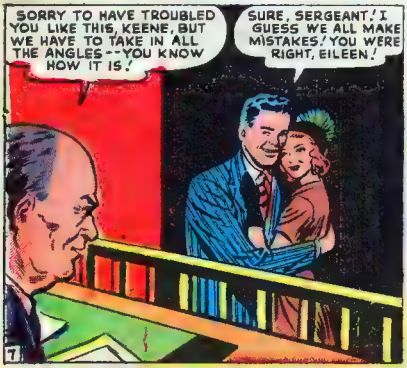
I KNOW YOU'RE INNOCENT, BUT I CAN'T LOVE A COWARD, ED! YOU MUST GO BACK AND FACE THEM! YOU MUST PROVE THAT YOU DIDN'T DO IT!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL GO BACK! GUESS I CAN'T KEEP ON RUNNING AWAY LIKE THIS FOREVER!
I'M GLAD YOU SEE IT MY WAY, ED--IT'S FOR THE BEST! IF WE HURRY, WE CAN GET A TRAIN OUT OF HERE IN AN HOUR!


WHEN WE ARRIVED, SEVERAL DAYS LATER, WE WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE POLICE STATION! WE WERE BOTH ANXIOUS TO GET IT OVER WITH!
WELL, HONEY--HERE GOES!
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT! DON'T WORRY, DARLING!
POLICE
5TH PRECINCT


AS WE WALKED INTO THE POLICE STATION WE BOTH REALIZED THAT OUR WHOLE FUTURE WAS AT STAKE! WE COULD ONLY PRAY THAT EVERYTHING WOULD TURN OUT ALL RIGHT!
MY NAME'S KEENE--ED KEENE! I BELIEVE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME IN CONNECTION WITH A ROBBERY THAT OCCURRED HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO!
KEENE--KEENE? OH YES! YOU'RE THE GUY WE SUSPECTED OF A HOLDUP ON ROUTE 66 A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO!


AS THE DESK SERGEANT SPOKE, WE BOTH STOOD BEWILDERED! AT FIRST, NEITHER ONE OF US COULD SPEAK!
WHY, WE CAUGHT THAT CROOK LAST WEEK! SOME BUM--HE WAS HIT BY A CAR AND CONFESSED THE WHOLE THING BEFORE HE DIED!


SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU LIKE THIS, KEENE, BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE IN ALL THE ANGLES--YOU KNOW HOW IT IS!
SURE, SERGEANT! I GUESS WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES! YOU WERE RIGHT, EILEEN!
7

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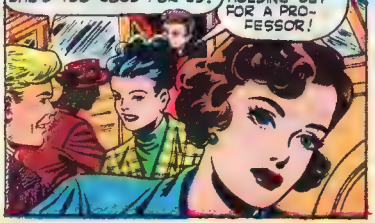
I WAS AFRAID OF ROMANCE!

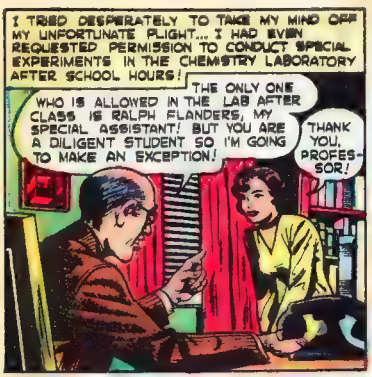
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE FOOL... THE WHOLE CAMPUS WILL HEAR YOU!
NO, PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T KISS ME!
HEY! LET GO OF THAT GIRL!
WOULD I EVER BE FREE FROM THIS TERRIBLE FEAR... FEAR OF BOYS... OR WAS I FATED TO A LIFE OF SPINSTER-HOOD!?!

THE DAY I BEGAN MY FIRST YEAR AT HILLTOP UNIVERSITY I WAS UTTERLY MISERABLE! I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT AN OUT-OF-TOWN COLLEGE WAS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL LIKE ME... A GIRL WHO LONGED FOR THE COMPANY OF BOYS, BUT WHO WAS ALWAYS...AFRAID!


HIYA, GIRLS! MY NAME IS HAL...AND THIS IS SAM... BILL... CARL... HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT CHICK? DOES SHE THINK SHE'S TOO GOOD FOR US?
MAYBE SHE CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH ORDINARY STUDENTS-- MAYBE SHE'S HOLDING OUT FOR A PROFESSOR!

BEFORE LONG I BECAME THE CAMPUS OUTCAST! I LED A LONELY AND MISERABLE EXISTENCE... NO ONE HAD ANY USE FOR ME-- NOT EVEN FLORENCE, MY ROOMMATE!

DON'T STUDY TOO HARD, ALMA-- YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR EYESIGHT! THEN YOU'D HAVE AN EXCUSE FOR AVOIDING EVERYONE!
COME ON, FLORENCE...LET'S GO! THE GAME STARTS AT EIGHT!

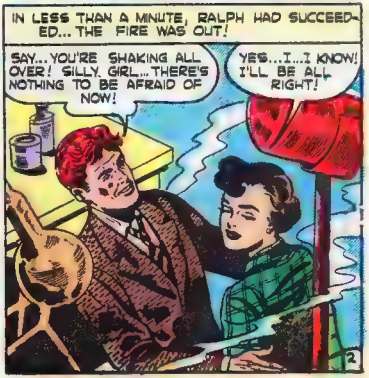

I TRIED DESPERATELY TO TAKE MY MIND OFF MY UNFORTUNATE PLIGHT... I HAD EVEN REQUESTED PERMISSION TO CONDUCT SPECIAL EXPERIMENTS IN THE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY AFTER SCHOOL HOURS!
THE ONLY ONE WHO IS ALLOWED IN THE LAB AFTER CLASS IS RALPH FLANDERS, MY SPECIAL ASSISTANT! BUT YOU ARE A DILIGENT STUDENT SO I'M GOING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR!

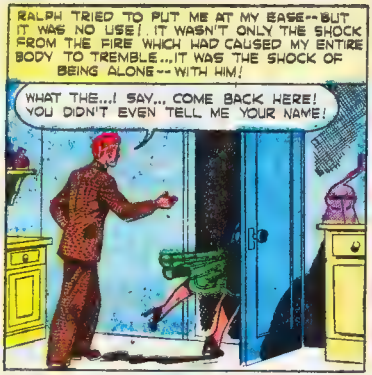
THEN, ONE EVENING...
OH, EXCUSE ME! I'M RALPH FLANDERS... I'M A STUDENT AT HILLTOP MYSELF... A SENIOR!
BUT THE PROFESSOR TOLD ME YOU DON'T COME UNTIL LATER!

MY HANDS SUDDENLY BEGAN TO SHAKE... I GREW ALMOST HYSTERICAL WITH FEAR! THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I HAD BEEN ALONE WITH A BOY!
OH!
LOOK OUT— YOU'RE KNOCKING OVER THE BUNSEN BURNER!

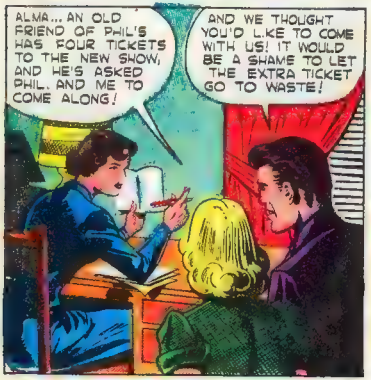
THE CHEMICAL CAUGHT ON FIRE!... IT'S SPREADING!
GET OUT OF THAT CORNER-- I'LL TRY TO PUT IT OUT!

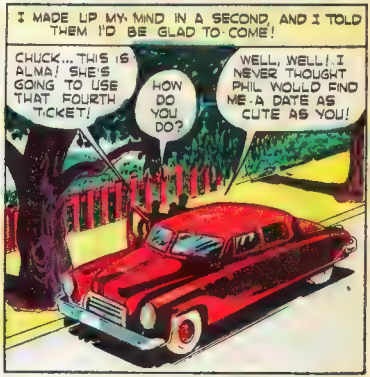
OH! HE'S TRYING TO PUT OUT THE FLAMES WITH HIS OWN BODY!


IN LESS THAN A MINUTE, RALPH HAD SUCCEEDED... THE FIRE WAS OUT!
SAY... YOU'RE SHAKING ALL OVER! SILLY GIRL... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF NOW!
YES... I... I KNOW! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

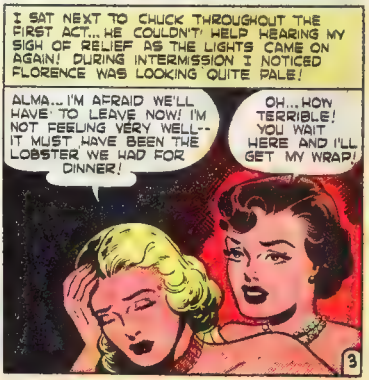

RALPH TRIED TO PUT ME AT MY EASE--BUT IT WAS NO USE! IT WASN'T ONLY THE SHOCK FROM THE FIRE WHICH HAD CAUSED MY ENTIRE BODY TO TREMBLE...IT WAS THE SHOCK OF BEING ALONE--WITH HIM!
WHAT THE...! SAY... COME BACK HERE! YOU DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME YOUR NAME!

THAT EVENING I TRIED TO STUDY... BUT I WAS MUCH TOO UPSET TO BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE! FLORENCE AND PHIL WERE NO HELP EITHER...
I WISH THEY WOULD LEAVE! WHY DO THEY HAVE TO STAND THERE AND WHISPER?
IT'S NO USE ASKING HER, PHIL--YOU'D BETTER FIND SOMEONE ELSE!
EVERY GIRL ON THE CAMPUS IS DATED! I HAVE TO FIND SOMEBODY FOR CHUCK...

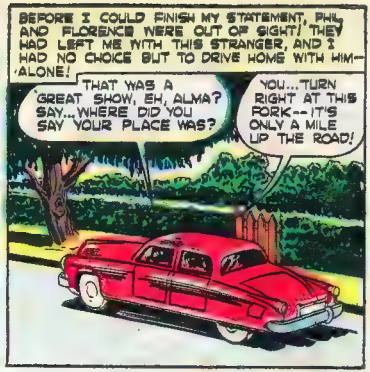

ALMA... AN OLD FRIEND OF PHIL'S HAS FOUR TICKETS TO THE NEW SHOW, AND HE'S ASKED PHIL AND ME TO COME ALONG!
AND WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO COME WITH US! IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LET THE EXTRA TICKET GO TO WASTE!


I MADE UP MY MIND IN A SECOND, AND I TOLD THEM I'D BE GLAD TO COME!
CHUCK... THIS IS ALMA! SHE'S GOING TO USE THAT FOURTH TICKET!
HOW DO YOU DO?
WELL, WELL! I NEVER THOUGHT PHIL WOULD FIND ME A DATE AS CUTE AS YOU!

"WHAT IF I SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE WITH HIM... WHAT WOULD I DO?" MY HEART POUNDED AS I TORTURED MYSELF WITH THIS QUESTION.
GO ON IN, FLORENCE--I'LL SIT ALONG THE AISLE!
DON'T BE SILLY, ALMA--YOU GO RIGHT IN AND SIT NEXT TO CHUCK! DO YOU WANT HIM TO THINK WE'S GOT POISON IVY OR SOMETHING?

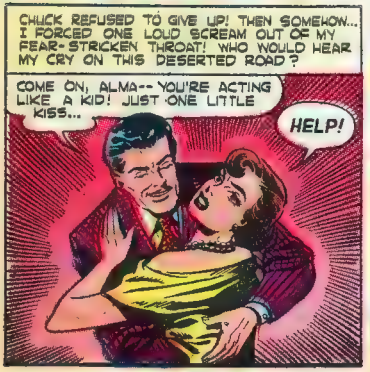

I SAT NEXT TO CHUCK THROUGHOUT THE FIRST ACT... HE COULDN'T HELP HEARING MY SIGH OF RELIEF AS THE LIGHTS CAME ON AGAIN! DURING INTERMISSION I NOTICED FLORENCE WAS LOOKING QUITE PALE!
ALMA... I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW! I'M NOT FEELING VERY WELL--IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE LOBSTER WE HAD FOR DINNER!
OH... HOW TERRIBLE! YOU WAIT HERE AND I'LL GET MY WRAP!

I WOULDN'T THINK OF HAVING YOU LEAVE ON MY ACCOUNT! YOU STAY WITH CHUCK AND SEE THE REST OF THE SHOW--THEN CHUCK WILL TAKE YOU HOME IN HIS CAR!
NO! NO! I'LL GO WITH YOU, FLORENCE! I'LL...


BEFORE I COULD FINISH MY STATEMENT, PHIL AND FLORENCE WERE OUT OF SIGHT! THEY HAD LEFT ME WITH THIS STRANGER, AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DRIVE HOME WITH HIM--ALONE!
THAT WAS A GREAT SHOW, EH, ALMA? SAY...WHERE DID YOU SAY YOUR PLACE WAS?
YOU...TURN RIGHT AT THIS FORK--IT'S ONLY A MILE UP THE ROAD!

SUDDENLY THE CAR STALLED ON THE DARK DESERTED ROAD! MY MIND BEGAN TO RECALL THE MANY STORIES I HAD HEARD ABOUT MEN DELIBERATELY STALLING THEIR CARS...
HMMM,! JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE RADIATOR IS OVER-HEATED--WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL IT COOLS OFF!
HE'S LYING--THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE RADIATOR! I'M GETTING OUT OF THE CAR!

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A SHORT WAIT, GORGEOUS! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE KISS WHILE WE'RE WAITING?
LET GO OF ME... LET GO OF ME, I TELL YOU! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO KEEP ME HERE!


CHUCK REFUSED TO GIVE UP! THEN SOMEHOW... I FORCED ONE LOUD SCREAM OUT OF MY FEAR-STRICKEN THROAT! WHO WOULD HEAR MY CRY ON THIS DESERTED ROAD?
COME ON, ALMA--YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A KID! JUST ONE LITTLE KISS...
HELP!

SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DO YOU WANT THE WHOLE CAMPUS DOWN HERE?
SOMEBODY'S COMING! SOMEBODY MUST HAVE HEARD ME!

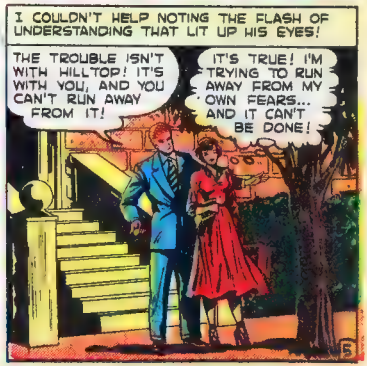
A CAVEMAN CASANOVA, HUH?
OOF!

I HAD SOME LATE WORK TO DO AT THE LAB AND WAS JUST LEAVING WHEN I HEARD YOUR VOICE! MAYBE I'D BETTER SEE YOU TO YOUR DOOR-- JUST IN CASE THIS WOLF HAS ANY MORE IDEAS!
THANKS, RALPH... BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT ALL RIGHT ALONE!

TWICE RALPH HAD COME TO MY AID--BOTH TIMES I RAN AWAY! HOW COULD I FEAR THIS BOY? I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS COLD EXISTENCE-- I DECIDED TO LEAVE HILLTOP FOREVER! SO THE NEXT MORNING...
FLORENCE ALWAYS SLEEPS LATE ON SUNDAY-- I'LL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE SHE WAKES UP!

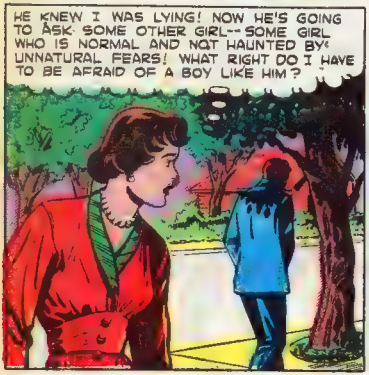
RALPH FLANDERS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I JUST DROPPED BY TO DELIVER YOUR BRACELET... YOU MUST HAVE DROPPED IT ON THE ROAD LAST NIGHT!

OH... THANK YOU! WELL... I GUESS YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED BY ME ANY MORE! I'M GOING HOME!
GOING HOME? BUT THE TERM ISN'T OVER YET-- YOU CAN'T GO NOW!

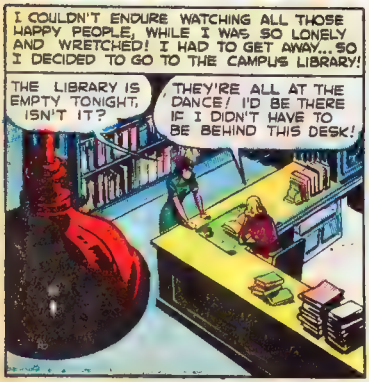

I COULDN'T HELP NOTING THE FLASH OF UNDERSTANDING THAT LIT UP HIS EYES!
THE TROUBLE ISN'T WITH HILLTOP! IT'S WITH YOU, AND YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT!
IT'S TRUE! I'M TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM MY OWN FEARS... AND IT CAN'T BE DONE!

OH, RALPH, YOU ARE RIGHT! IT'S CHILDISH AND STUPID OF ME TO RUN AWAY-- IT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
GOOD GIRL, ALMA! NOW DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE CHANGED THE SUBJECT TO SOMETHING MORE CHEERFUL... THE SENIOR CLASS MASQUERADE, FOR INSTANCE! WILL YOU GO WITH ME?

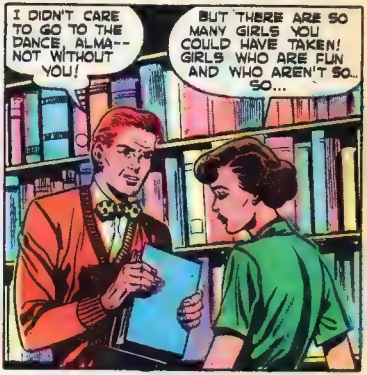
I WANTED SO MUCH TO SAY YES... BUT AS RALPH PUT HIS STRONG HAND ON MY SHOULDER, SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME FROZE!
OH, RALPH... I'D LOVE TO... BUT I CAN'T GO WITH YOU, RALPH! ...PLEASE DON'T ASK ME WHY...
ALL RIGHT, ALMA! I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT! WELL... I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!


HE KNEW I WAS LYING! NOW HE'S GOING TO ASK SOME OTHER GIRL-- SOME GIRL WHO IS NORMAL AND NOT HAUNTED BY UNNATURAL FEARS! WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF A BOY LIKE HIM?

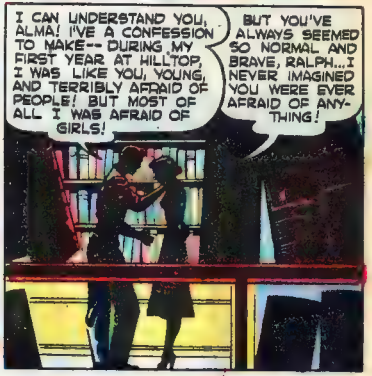
I COULDN'T BEAR STAYING IN MY ROOM THE NIGHT OF THE DANCE... NOT WHEN I KNEW THAT EVERYONE ON THE CAMPUS WOULD BE THERE!
EVERY GIRL IS THERE WITH A BOY-- AND ONE OF THEM IS WITH RALPH!!


I COULDN'T ENDURE WATCHING ALL THOSE HAPPY PEOPLE, WHILE I WAS SO LONELY AND WRETCHED! I HAD TO GET AWAY... SO I DECIDED TO GO TO THE CAMPUS LIBRARY!
THE LIBRARY IS EMPTY TONIGHT, ISN'T IT?
THEY'RE ALL AT THE DANCE! I'D BE THERE IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE BEHIND THIS DESK!

BUT AS I APPROACHED THE LAST ROW OF BOOKSHELVES, I OBSERVED THAT THE LIBRARY WASN'T ENTIRELY DESERTED AFTER ALL...
I DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD BE HERE TONIGHT!


I DIDN'T CARE TO GO TO THE DANCE, ALMA-- NOT WITHOUT YOU!
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY GIRLS YOU COULD HAVE TAKEN! GIRLS WHO ARE FUN AND WHO AREN'T SO... SO...

SO AFRAID! WHAT'S THE USE OF PRETENDING, ALMA? YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME AND THE REST OF THE WORLD...
OH, RALPH! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO HAS EVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND! I NEVER ONCE GAVE YOU THE CONFIDENCE YOU DESERVED!


I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU, ALMA! I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE-- DURING MY FIRST YEAR AT HILLTOP, I WAS LIKE YOU, YOUNG, AND TERRIBLY AFRAID OF PEOPLE! BUT MOST OF ALL I WAS AFRAID OF GIRLS!
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS SEEMED SO NORMAL AND BRAVE, RALPH... I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WERE EVER AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN, ALMA! I WAS EVEN TEMPTED TO RETURN HOME... BUT I STAYED AND FOUGHT IT OUT! I SOON FOUND OUT THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING TO FEAR-- BUT FEAR ITSELF!
THEN ALL AT ONCE I BECAME AWARE OF A MIRACLE... I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT I WAS NO LONGER AFRAID TO BE ALONE WITH RALPH!

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SAY THIS SINCE THE FIRST DAY I SAW YOU! I LOVE YOU, SWEETHEART!
OH... RALPH! I'M NOT AFRAID! I'M NOT AFRAID ANY MORE!
RALPH KISSED ME AGAIN AND AGAIN AS WE STOOD BEHIND THE BOOKSHELF, AND AS THE GATES OF A NEW WORLD OF HAPPINESS SWUNG OPEN FOR BOTH OF US, I FELT SURE HEAVEN COULD NOT HOLD MORE!

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Large 1 Karat Stone—real sparkle! Very low priced for quick sale. Beautiful, impressive, smooth. Men—get this handsome ring now! Bargain! 1.98

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Enchanting ring for smart ladies. 20 small Pseudo Diamonds imported from Europe are set hand set in twin clusters. Very feminine . . . dainty . . . fashionable! Only . . . 2.98

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10 glistening brilliants to resemble diamonds featured in Loyale Wedding Ring set. Gorgeous gold color . . . fashionable! Compare! Both only 2.98

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15 Rhinestones in blazing rainbow hues: Ruby-red, Emerald-green, Sapphire-blue and Diamond-white colors. Exquisitely designed, so dainty! 1.98

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RESIST WATCH FOR ACTIVE MEN

BANG IT! DROP IT! THROW IT!

NOW 7.97

The special, patented **PROTEKT-O-BALANCE** features every active man and boy has waited for. Now you can **DROP IT, BANG IT, HIT IT** and never worry. **UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS** — You never pay one red cent for skilled labor costs! Accurate Swiss jewel movement! Red Sweep Second Hand! Numerals glow at night. Rich looking silver color case. Unbreakable crystal. Modern design! **Supply limited due to international crisis.** Get yours **NOW** while you can. Special price 7.97

"ETERNAL LOVE"
Engagement and Wedding Ring Set

Something special and very pretty! Imagine—12 sparkling Pseudo **Diamonds**, imported from Europe, set in a gorgeous Engagement and Wedding Ring Set! . . . **NATURAL GOLD** color, exquisite design. Your price for both—**4.89**. Yet they look like $750.00 and more! They sparkle a thousand rays of light! Enjoy a **LIFETIME!**

TRY AT OUR RISK!

You can't lose a penny. Try this gorgeous ETERNAL LOVE set at our risk. If not satisfied, we will return the price at once. Don't delay. Order a set today. Don't lose this opportunity. Remember—**BOTH** rings are yours for only **4.89**. MAIL THE COUPON NOW

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Men's Distinctive Watch

NOW 9.97

"ELDORADO"—the watch for active men—last word in smart styling! Sparkling Pseudo Diamonds and Rubies set around the dial. Solid Gold color effect, chromed back. Unbreakable crystal. Luminous hands. Large sweep-Second hand. Rugged case, built to take the "gaff." Imported Swiss movement gives dependable service. **UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS**—never a penny for skilled labor cost! Formerly **24.95**. Special **SALE PRICE**, only **9.99**—not a penny more. **10 DAY FREE TRIAL.** Your money back quick if not delighted. **RUSH COUPON NOW!**

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TREMENDOUS VALUE! While they last, you can have this glamorous **DIAMOND LOCKET** at an unbelievably low price! Rich, solid Gold color effect, gorgeous design. **Has** special frames inside for two photographs of loved ones! Complete with chain, yours for . . . 2.98

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CUT HAIR AT HOME
Complete 3-piece outfit for cutting hair at home. Set includes: **Hair Clippers, Tapered Barber Comb and Scissors,** and easy instructions. Save time and money for the whole family. Special low price for 3 pieces, all for 2.98

TINY NITE LAMP
Less than 4 inches tall! Has own powerful battery current—no plug-in needed. Press switch to light. Ideal for nursery, bedroom and during storms. Beautiful, jewel-like appearance. Complete with dainty shade and tiny bulb. 98c

Men's INITIAL Ring

Your own **INITIAL** in Raised Gold color effect firmly set on a **BLOOD-RED** stone. Flanked by sparkling pseudo **DIAMONDS** imported from Europe. Ring made in 14 Karat Rolled Gold plate, very fashionably designed, fit in appearance.

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE!
Enjoy a lifetime . . . it's so handsomely masculine so distinctive! Mention letter desired and send strip of paper for size. Bargain price 2.97

AMAZING WEATHER "ROSE"
Place near window—see color changes like magic! **RED** allegedly indicates rain, storms; **BLUE**—fair and sunny; **PURPLE**—changes coming! Amazes every one! Beautiful, decorative. Flower pot given. 98c

2 IN 1 CASE & CIGARET LIGHTER
Slip your whole pack into this sleek, handsome, Combination case and built-in, Sure-Fire Lighter. No more fumbling around for cigarettes or matches! Bargain price . . . 1.94

Ladies' SPORTEX Watch

Special!

A sturdy, accurate watch with special jewel movement. Ideal for active women and girls, nurses, teachers, sportswomen, typists, housewives, etc. Case is strong, so sturdy! Has luminous hands and numbers for night reading. So feminine and petite, yet so accurate too! **10-Day MONEY BACK Guarantee and conditional free service certificate.** Bargain price 7.97

BIG, POWERFUL SUPER FIELD GLASS

NOW you can own and enjoy Rocket's most **POWERFUL** and very **BEST FIELD GLASS** at a special **LOW PRICE!** Well made of rugged metals and has specially ground magnification lenses. Such **TERRIFIC POWER** you won't believe your eyes! Get an intimate view of nature . . . the sky at night . . . the birds, mountains, etc.

GO PLACES AND SEE THINGS!
Get a close-up of that neck-to-neck finish at the races, the flashing uppercut of the boxer, the quick pass down the football field, seashore scenes, etc. See what your neighbors are doing without being seen!
Special SALE price, only 2.94

Tear out and mail this COUPON

ROCKET WHOLESALE CO., Dept. 99-H100
131 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y.

Gentlemen: Please rush the articles below. I will deposit price shown with mailman on arrival, plus postage. I will use and enjoy them for 10 days. Anytime I am not satisfied, you will return my money. (We prepay postage on cash orders).

NAME OF ARTICLE DESIRED	PRICE

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ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____

PLEASE! Some rings sized on this strip of paper wrapped around finger.

BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's *good night!*".

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you — are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . if they *want* to!

"He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is.

Even Cute Girls Become Careless

Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it—with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!

I WONDER WHY WE'RE NOT POPULAR SIS?
ASK YOUR FRIEND TOM
TOM, WHY DON'T SIS AND I GET INVITED TO PROMS AND PARTIES
FRANKLY, JIM IT'S THOSE UGLY BLACKHEADS

FELLOWS! GIRLS!
Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . safe . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores . . . make your skin look grimy and dingy . . . give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it—quickly!—without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germy fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX—now!

ACTUAL LENGTH 3½"

RUSH COUPON NOW!

10 DAY TRIAL OFFER

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only $1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing $1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way—just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get $1 back. Order today!

No Squeezing
No Infection
No Injury to Skin Tissues!

Just place VACUTEX over blackhead—release extractor—and blackhead's out!

10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

BALLCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. 4005
19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

☐ Enclosed find $1.00. Send me VACUTEX postpaid.
☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman $1.00 plus postage.

My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted.

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NO. 952– Flattering shirred neckline, puffed sleevelets. Deep, wide pockets, gold metallic buttons all the way down.
COLORS: Multi-color plaids: Grey ground solid Blue bodice, Lime ground solid Green bodice, Blue ground solid Green bodice.
SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44.

NO. 953– Charming double collar, white pique under plaid. Youthful, Missy styling for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 only.
COLORS: Multi-color plaids of Blue with Green and Maize, Red with Black and Green.

NO. 395– Wide shoulder ruffles, deep neckline . . . just zip it up the back.
SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44.
COLORS: Raspberry, Green, and Orchid all on tinted Marble background.

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for WAITRESSES . . . HOUSEMAIDS
BEAUTICIANS . . . NURSES

NO. 315– Like a pretty party dress. Vertical shirring on bodice. Detachable shank buttons. Gripper skirt.
COLORS: White, Blue, Green, Grey.
SIZES: 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44.

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Dept. MC-6

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STYLE	HOW MANY	SIZE	COLOR	2ND COLOR CHOICE
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953				
395				
315				

☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman plus charges.
☐ Payment enclosed. You pay delivery charges.

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WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Radios (sent postage paid). Mail coupon to start.

56th Year

OUR 56th YEAR

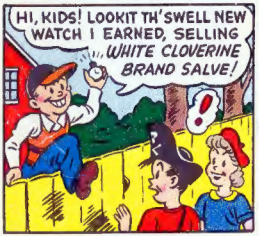
Boys! Girls! Ladies! Men!

Lovable Dolls over 15" high, Cub Fishing Outfits, Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Daisy Air Rifles (sent postage paid). Give pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25c a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order to start. It's fun! Easy! We trust you! Begin at once!

ACT NOW 56th YR.

BE FIRST

Boys-Girls Bicycles (sent express charges collect). Mail coupon to start.



NO MONEY NOW

Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Baseballs, Bats (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash as easily yours. To start, mail coupon for White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE and Pictures easily sold to friends, relatives, neighbors at 25c a box (with picture).

YOUR BIG CHANCE!

LOOK!

OUR 56th YEAR

START TODAY!

A FEW DAYS LATER JIM AND BETTY ARE BUSY SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE
GOLLY! THIS SALVE SURE SELLS FAST! NOW LETS CALL ON MRS. BROWN -
IT'S FUN!

Footballs, Basketballs (sent postage paid). Mail coupon to start.

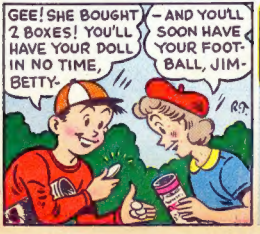
Ukuleles, Jewelry, Watches (sent postage paid). Mail coupon to start.

BIG CATALOG!

Alarm Clocks, Pen and Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players, Movie Machines (sent postage paid). Rush coupon to start!

ACT NOW

WE ARE RELIABLE



MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept.148-BY, Tyrone, Pa. Date.....

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 13 colorful art pictures with 13 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture.) I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

Name..... Age.....

St..... RD..... Box.....

Town..... Zone No..... State.....

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Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today